

re-rigged  
rope  
free

# Esopo 2015

/ /

07/07/2015 - Gemhöle - 107 Luke, Joe

An early 7:00 am start resulted in a marginally cooler walk up to the entrance at ~~107~~ 107 after dropping off first load we returned (metadally down) making good progress, we collected another bag of rock sack worth of rope and returned to the entrance entering the cave at 12:00 - The first pitch had a precariously hanging 2 tonnes of snow hanging on the side of the wall, (this was ignored!) trip continued the first 5 ropes were rigged, a quick return to the surface to warm up, and then re-entered with more rope making it all the way to Twin Pitches at which point all the rope had been exhausted, returning out the trick was to ignore the fact that the block of snow/ice was disintegrating above you showering pieces on you. (This would have to be sorted)

6hrs



08/07/2015 Gemsehöhle 107 Luke, Joe

A return with the rope required and drill to sort out the sketchy rigging resulted in an arrival at the top at 12:00 after a more relaxed start. The first task was to destroy the ever melting snow which was achieved in 30 mins, the down trip involved sorting out multiple rigging issues and everything was made much safer. Water flow had increased dramatically since yesterday, making it too bold for this spit we halted, rigged it but had to turn round because of lack of hangers and a quantity of water flowing down, exiting the cave was much more pleasant with out the looming ice berg

6hrs

Much re-rigging was had

2105 09003

09/07/15 107 - LUKE & JOE AGAIN START 11:00 END 19:30

LUCKY LUKE HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO GO DOWN 107 AGAIN WITH THE PROMISE OF LARGE CAME TO BE SEEN.

RIGGING 'TOO BOLD FOR THIS SPOT' WASN'T SO WET BUT STILL NOT NICE! SOME NEW BOLTS WERE PUT IN AND THEN WE SET OFF FOR CHINA. WE RENT INTO 161 SEARCHING FOR THE MYSTERIOUS MISSING ROPE - DIDN'T FIND IT, BUT ENJOYED 161 WHICH HAS A VERY DIFFERENT CHARACTER TO 107, THERE ARE SOME LOVELY "STONE MUSHROOMS" DOWN THERE (TAKE A CAMERA NEXT TIME). WE HAD A LOOK DOWN A 'C' LEAD ON THE WEST WALL OF CHINA ---- WILL HAVE TO GO DOWN AND SURVEY TOMORROW (LUCKE)!

T.U. 8 1/2 HRS.

10/7/15 Turnoles entrance rig

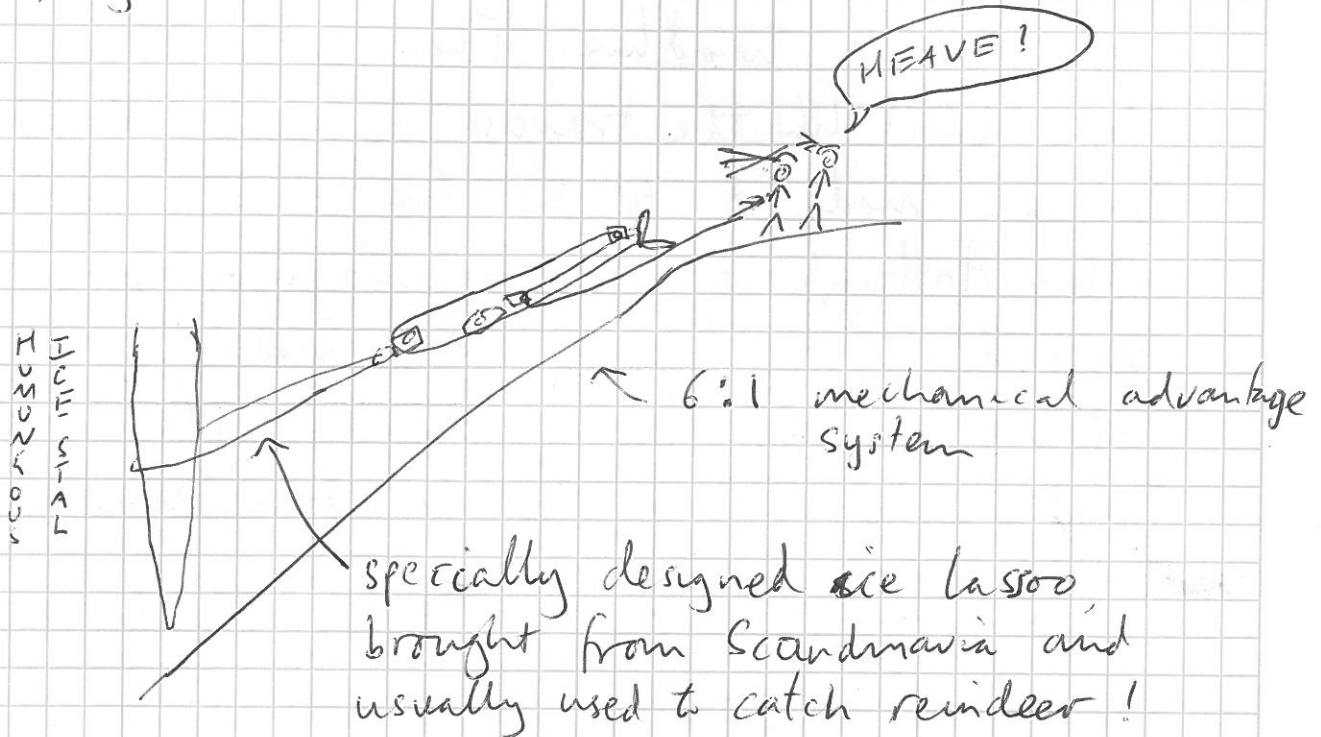
Anthony & Mark D

Hauled up to Turnoles with enough rope for the entrance pitch and maybe Curved Catharics as well, plus drill in case entrance rig falling was required. I rigged down following the trail of reflectors which made finding the bolts, making only minimal changes to the old rig. There was a substantial pile of snow at the first class stage (completely bare last year as I recall) and also at other points lower down. At the second class stage I spent a while swinging around with sky hooks to see if I could find a way to avoid it completely, eventually concluding that it would be very aerobic for little gain. I put in an extra bolt for the next descent to replace the y-hang with bolts nailed up in the air on the far wall with a y-hang on the near side of the drop with an immediate deviation off the far wall. Continued down until the trail of reflectors seemed to indicate an airy-fairy route across the wall. I elected to descend directly to the floor which was covered in relatively fresh snow. There is still some very old ice down there which would make the original route very tedious. Dicks on ice is open however, albeit with higher snow levels than I recall from last year. Mark descended the snow slope and discovered an enormous ice slab hanging like the sword of Damocles right above the way on. Something needed to be done about this, so we retreated to plan our next move

T/U 6hrs.

11/7/15 Tunnocks entrance de-ice Anthony & Mark D

At Ducks on Ice we had discovered an enormous ice stal. While not blocking the way or physically it was judged to be a serious hazard. The first job of the day was therefore de-icing. Something that two blokes who live in Scandinavia ought to be well qualified for, right?



Anyway, the ice stal broke into 1 million pieces, leaving the way on clear of danger. Using the formula for the volume of a cone we calculated the volume of ice and hence the weight of the stal.

$$V = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$$

$$r \approx 0,3 \text{ m}$$
$$h \approx 5 \text{ m}$$

$$V \approx 0,5 \text{ m}^3$$

density of ice is 0,8 kg/L

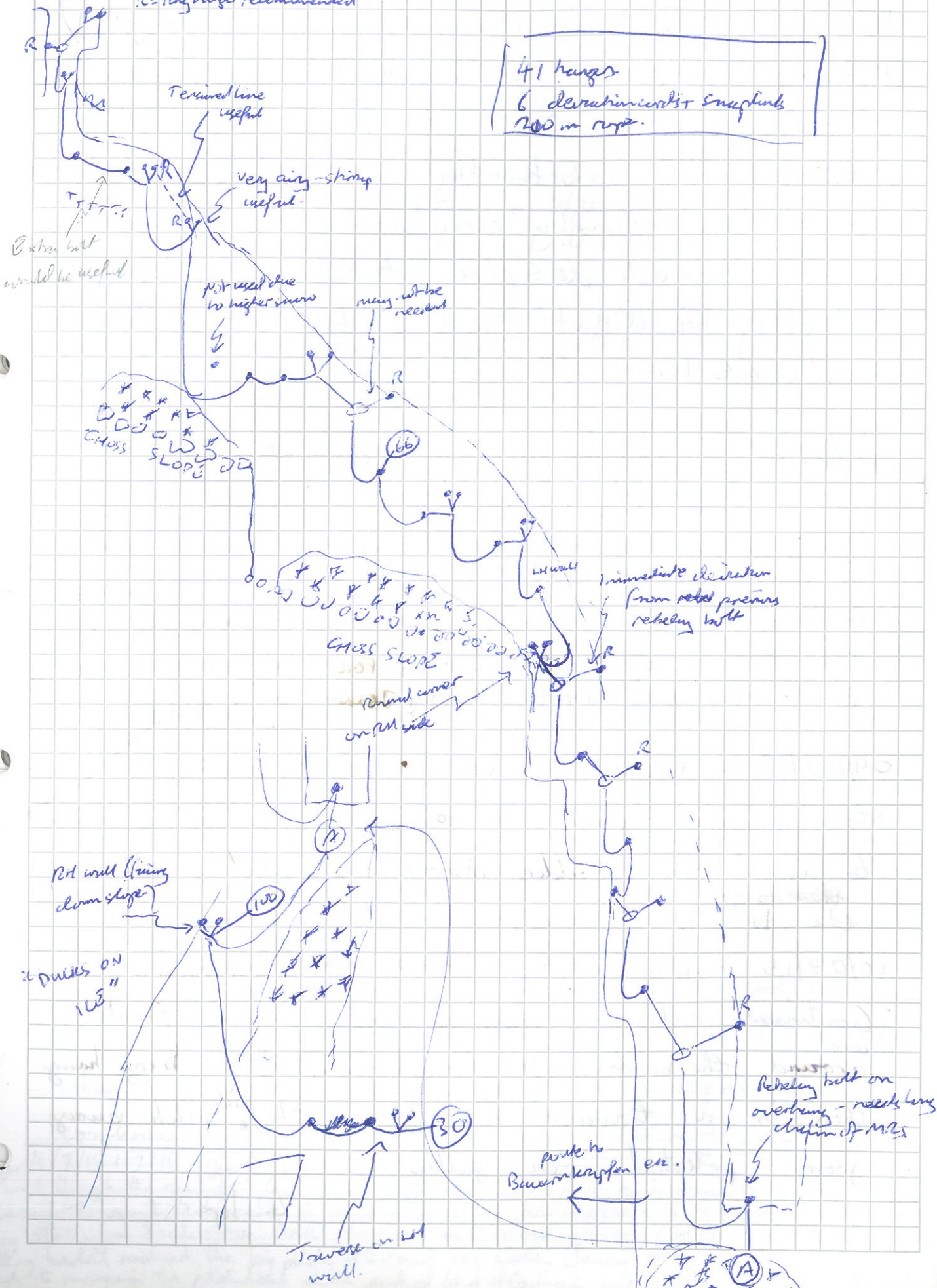
$\Rightarrow$  weight  $\approx$  400 kg. Not good if that landed on your toe!!!

After the de-ice, we carried on. Rigged  
traverse & headline down to start of Caramel  
Catharsis, then the long traverse & pitch itself.  
Rope was too short, but we "borrowed" a small  
rope from a headline. Then on to String Theory.  
Mark didn't like the traverse around "Usual Suspects"  
but we made it to the top of String Theory  
after Anthony's fine words of encouragement.  
Most of String Theory was rigged by Anthony  
and we exited feeling pleased with ourselves.  
Just made it back to the Stone Bridge before  
a big storm broke. T/V 8 hours

# TUNNELS ENTRANCE RIG 2015

R = ring hanger recommended!

41 hangers  
6 deviation control & straighteners  
200 m rope.



11/07/15 - 107 Luke, Joe, Matt <sup>(more info)</sup>  
returned to c lead in China with Matt  
to survey the pitch that we dropped the  
previous trip unfortunately only compass/clino  
so a depressingly amount of passage  
was surveyed despite 4 1/2 hours Spent  
surveying we didnt get cold and "much  
fun" was had 9 hr

12/07/15 - 107/101 Joe, Luke, Jenny & Oly.

"We found THE BAG!"

HAVING LOOKED FOR THE BAG OF BOBS FOR OVER A YEAR  
IT WAS HAPPILY SURPRISED TO FIND IT..... IT IS NOW  
RESIDING AT (IN A TACKLE SACK) "TO BOLD FOR THIS SPIT".

THE TECHNICAL AND INTELLECTUAL INFO FOR THIS TRIP WILL NOW  
BE SUPPLIED BY OLY (OR PERHAPS JENNY) (continued)

09/07/15 - BALCONY - DAVID & RACHEL

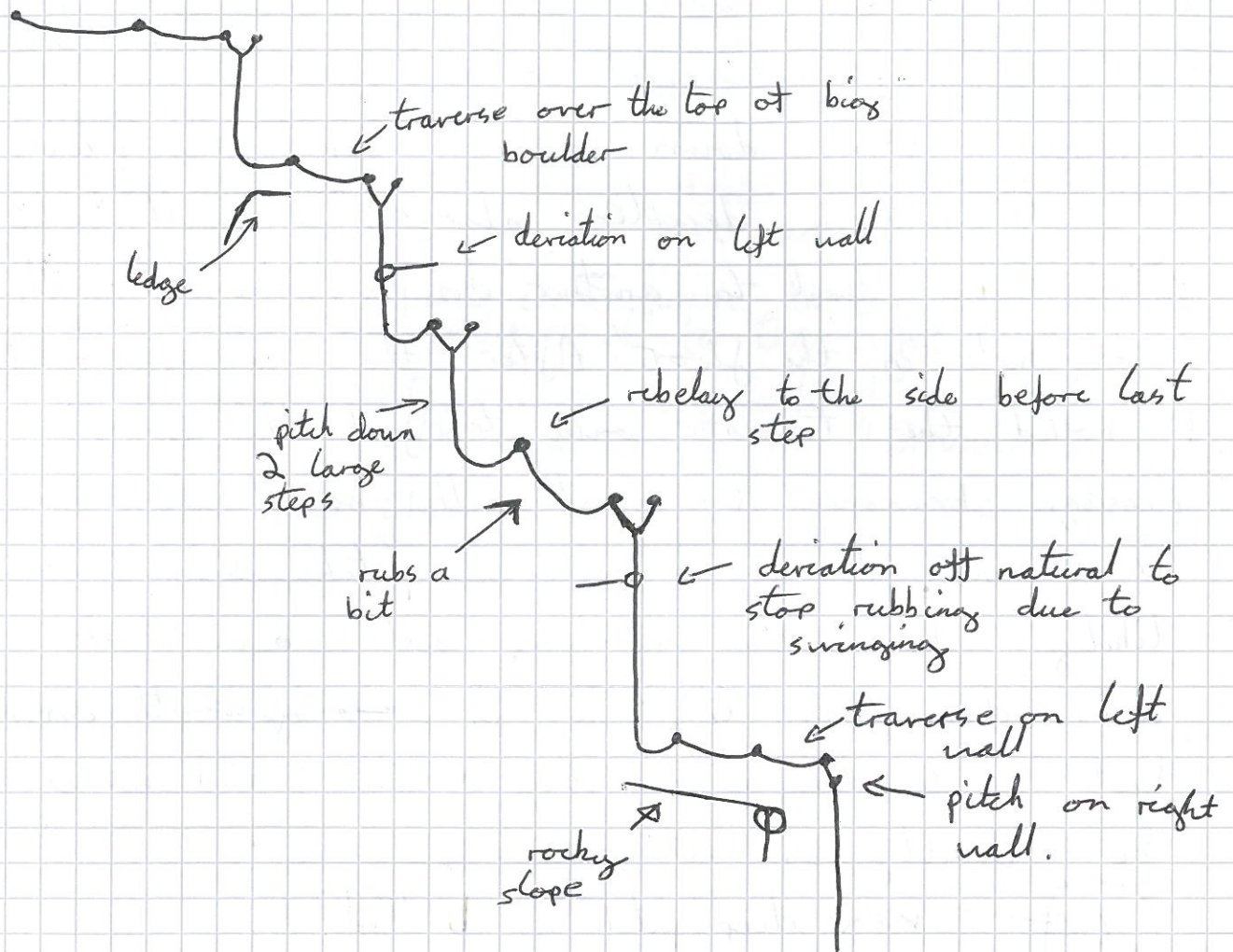
started ~~rigging~~ rigging the entrance put in a traverse  
to avoid the boulder. Moved the rebelay above  
the ~~big~~ big Y hang. 4 hrs

10/07/15 - BALCONY - DAVID & FRANK

Continued entrance rigging and showed Frank  
around the bottom. At the bottom of the big hang  
there is a traverse to move the last pitch away  
from potential rock falls.

4 hrs

BALCONY ENTRANCE RIG 2015



11/07/15 - BALCONY - DAVID, FRANK & RACHEL

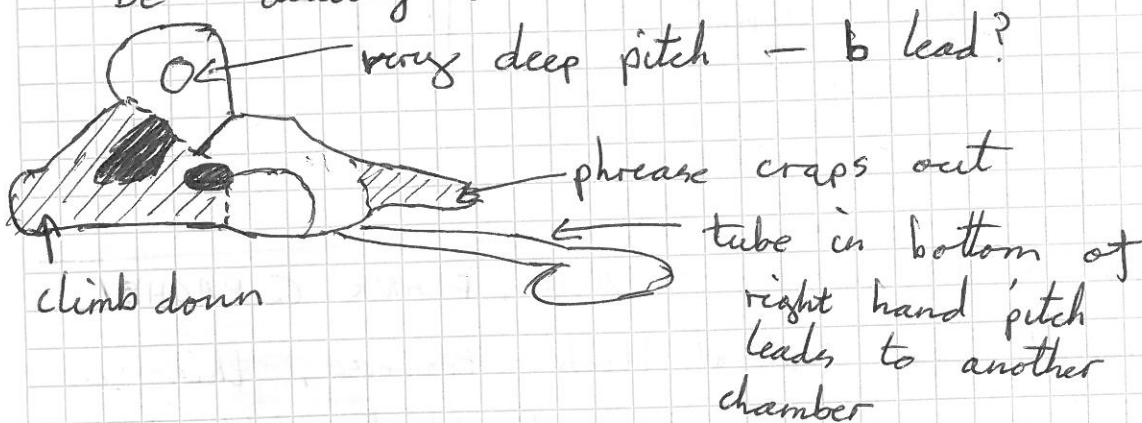
Rachel rigged the 'Natural High' traverse, this is getting slippery so a rope should be left in place. We then push the A lead at the end of dark arch. After ~20m of passage we hit a large shaft. It looked like the ~~pro~~ phreatic passage continued requiring an easy traverse...

12/7/15 107/161 Joe, Luke, Jenny, Olly (continued)

We went through the connector from China into Blown Away/out and round to Bunde strasse finding (as Joe said) the smart tackle sack at the junction to the Rimmelfors. A small rift on from the last survey station in Bunde strasse had clearly been explored already (by Anthony, Rob + Rob it seems) but they hadn't realised the big pitch at the end was Korea. Jenny & Joe were able to lean out enough to recognise the pitch head at the end of last of Confusion and dists an approx. connector. 11:45 Dec 01/16. The

12/07/15 - BALCONY DAVID & MATT

We returned to traverse the shaft. It appeared that the shaft intersected some large horizontal passage ~15m down so we dropped the pitch only to find a deceptive alcove! A small body sized tube lead to another drippy chamber with a deep hole in the floor. After this disappointment I bolted the traverse only to find the phreatic passage became too small with no draft. There is a second much deeper pitch which is likely where the howling gale in dark arts disappears to. This is ~~probably~~ worth dropping but is ~~not~~ drippy in dry weather and may be deadly in wet weather.



13/07/15 - BALCONY DAVID, RACHEL & LUKE

We tied in the surveys from the 2 previous trips in dark arts and pulled the gear back to the main passage. Oh and I retrieved the hanger I dropped.

4 hrs.



11/7/15 Joe Luke Matt 107 Pushing

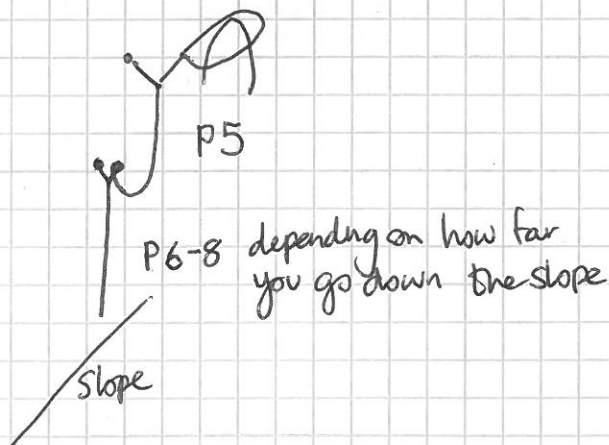
By this point Joe had rigged to China so decided to join them for a trip to survey a lead we had poked our head in last year.

A short pitch with 2 Y-hangs drops down the side wall through the boulders onto a sand and rubble slope.

There is a scary looking climb down to the left QMC and a small passage going off to the right QMC.

At the bottom of the slope we entered a narrow pneumatic rift with a sandy floor "Smooth sandy bottom"

Surveying was slow and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  h later we hadn't really got very far. We left an even lead QMB and the rift continues with a slight draft QMB.



13/7/15 Joe, Ollg, Jenny 107 - Wonderland: Wildwest + D1 restraints

Decided on a short trip for Joe's final day so that we could head down the hill afterwards. We gave Joe a (slightly too long) head start so that he could retrieve his gear from Restless, and then all headed through the sea of fudge and into Wonderland. Got to the Wildwest lead (last seen in 2015 when the drill battery died and attempts at lassoing a spike as a belay resulted in rockfall).

Joe placed 2 bolts and dumbered up before placing a final bolt at the top. We joined him up there. Almost immediately the passage hit a T junction, right went to a soil/gravel dip. We followed left along lovely pneumatic passage with a few formations which got photoed (badly) by me, and also dead insects and a caddy some animal droppings we followed along to a short climb up and down again to the bottom of an aven. Joe dumbered this (being very careful of the loose flakes), and we sent the rope-drill up for him to rig for us.

Followed this to another aven. Main way on appears to be 18m up - would

almost certainly need a bolt or two. There was also a small tube only a few metres up, which didn't draft. Joe removed his SRT kit and explored, after a bit I followed. A low crawl led to a rift and then left but then another body sized crawl to a widening. Joe climbed down to a lower level which was small but may go, straight on led to another aven.

We surveyed back to Oily, despite being small passage and horrible to haul to wiggle backwards while survey was largely and straight so didn't require too many legs. We named this Dice Strait. Once we got back to Oily, Joe headed out to start carrying his gear down, and we finished the survey.

T/U: Joe 7 1/2 hrs  
Jonny + Oily 6 hrs

14/7/15 Tunnocks rigging etc.

Mark, Dan, Anthony

A wet night at the bivouac meant that plans for a long rigging trip were put on hold in favour of a shorter trip that would allow us to bolt down the hill. Ferris Big Bertha Mk II containing 200m of 10mm (intended for Protraction and Number 1 of the Revert) as far as the top of String Theory. Mark and Dan to put in some bolts to protect the chimney traverse round the 80m deep wet hole on the approach to String Theory. I completed the String Theory rig. With that we headed out.

T/U 6 hrs.

16/7/15 Team Fiano go surface prospecting

Dan, Matt, Anthony

The plan was to go and find Organichile (located by Wadley and Olaf in 2012) plus swing by some of the holes Dan and I found in the same area in the same year. Since expo was quite sparsely populated, we decided to take advantage of dirt availability to drop some of the short pitches we had found. We decided to take two overnights, two helmets and one SRT kit between us and also some surveying gear to give ourselves the option of verifying that we really had found Organichile.

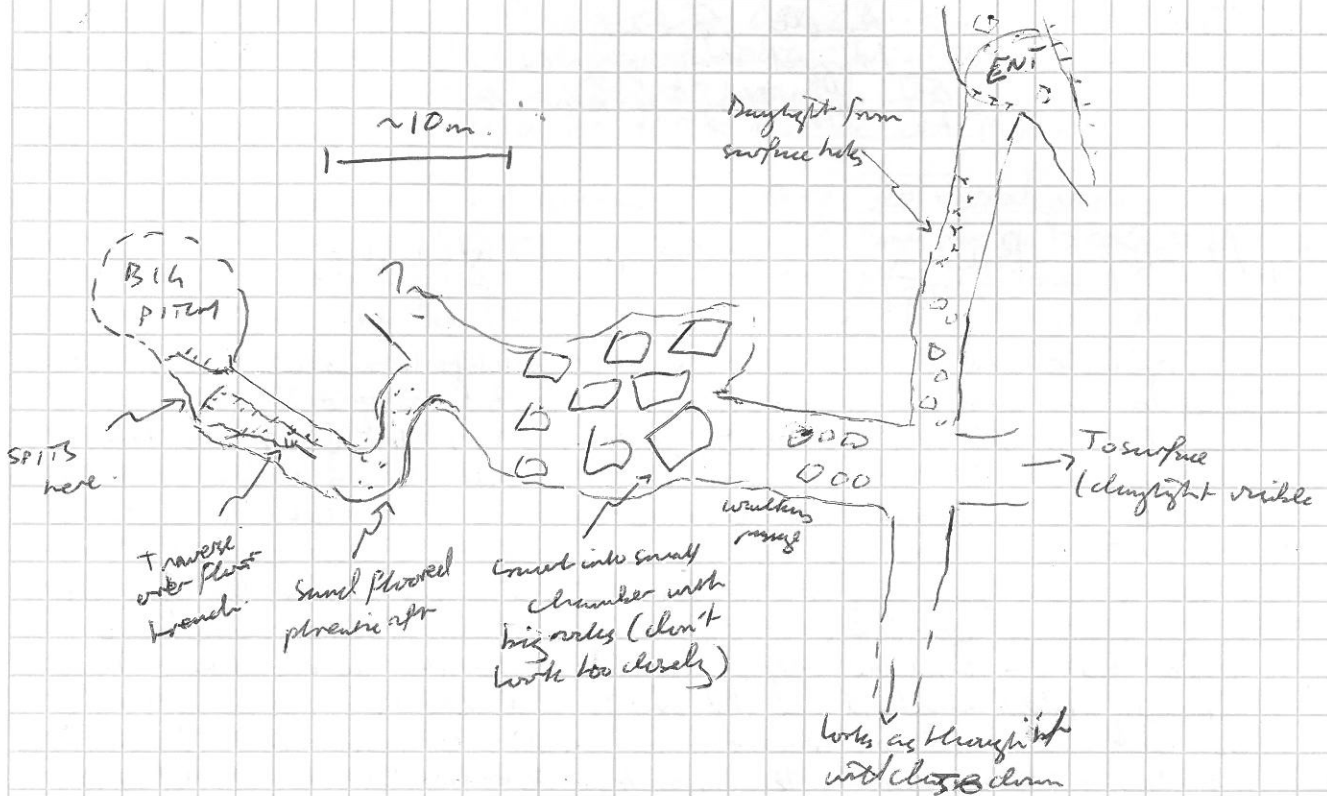
Things did not go entirely according to plan.

We first swung by Tunnocks to pick up our SRT kit. It was at this point that I realised I hadn't seen any rope being pushed. It was hot and fairly late, so we pressed on to Bulamtwahle from where we took a segment round about route towards Organichile via a subsidiary summit of the Flores Amphitheatre. Coming off the back of this, Dan spotted a cave. There is a hole in the side of the cliff leading onto a rift pitch, with another couple of surface shafts above that go to the same place - definitely worth a try. Since we had a dirt, this should have been a quick job. However, a trail of dirt bits was going to make it much harder. Fortunately we had a hand bolting kit, so I made up a bag (2015-16-01) and Dan set about placing a hand bolt for it.

Whilst Dan was bolting, I headed off in the direction where Mark's GPS said Organichile was supposed to be. Found a hole in the right place, and headed back to Dan who had by now stopped drilling - not because the bolt was

complete but because the head of the bolt-driver had sheared off.

We all trooped over to the Organizable candidate entrance, where we could have started surveying --- if we had brought a tape measure. I donned overcoat and helmet and set off to verify that we had the right cave. After a bit of walking / crawling I found a decent sized patch with two spits for a y-hang at the top (one of which looks good, one is shaggy) - so I'm pretty sure we've got the right cave. It looks a bit like this:



With that we headed back towards Top Camp via a more direct route, playing our cards as we went. Eventually we picked up a natural path that I suspect goes to Bullett's 2nd Höhle. This route is fairly direct and the terrain reasonable, but it is going to take a while - likely over an hour from Balonyhöhle.

Our final act was to take a look at Anbs in Punkt's schacht. The snow level looks pretty low, so this might be worth revisiting later on expo.

17/7/15 More Turnworks refuges

Mark, Anthony

Headed into Turnworks to rig the room of rope we had carried in earlier. Mark sorted out the rebelay at the bottom of string 1 then making it less of a haul to pass. I made a start on a restriction. Unfortunately I didn't find the right bolts for the y-hang so there is a sub-reals from on the next trip. I rigged down using Chris's 2013 thimbles for the point being to (hopefully) avoid the worst of the water. Discovered that the traverse and slitting little pitch at the bottom had been derigged, so Mark rigged these using the 200 of 9mm kindly provided by Tom and David. Up Bingen the Clowns, then I rigged Number of the Beast with remainder of the 10mm. Out in 3 hrs - a pretty efficient trip.

T/U 10 hrs.

18/7/2015

Balcony  
90b

George, David Walker, Julian

Trip to look at Frank's hole east of pitchfork towards 75c, left. Due to start work, while George & I visited other end. (We'd ~~gone~~ looked at QMs on route, amended maps, posted George into holes that weren't down for him to come out 20m back out of another y-hang or hole). We looked at the harder choice on a loose passage and spied a slot up. On the way back to Dave & I said, "How about I give you a leg up?" Sure, said George. He reported a big chamber up there. I didn't believe him coz there was no echo, but checked it. Yep. Back at Frank's hole, Dave had already black knoched a lid over it and couldn't do anything, so took no time to convert to our lead. George and I surveyed while he investigated pitch opposite. We borrowed him briefly to rig a traverse in the northern passage. It being late and with a callout of 8pm, we had to risk on out and join the queue at the entrance pitch. NB I'd walked up from base camp with George and Rob that morning, so quite a long day. Also recalibrated SWB pony 3 times underground with no success.

T/U 8 6 hrs

19/7/2015, Balcony 90b.

George, David Walker, Julian

Same place, same time, took compass and dino this time and surveyed up South end to a pitch. George went back to chamber and fiddled through a passage to a place where he came out the bottom. Also climbed up the rift through high wet bit. Meanwhile Dave had done his pitch and balcony ledge traverse to big passage. We surveyed into it, plumbed down then across hole. At this point I got suspicious at how fast George was taking notes. Turned out he'd done no dragons at all. I went to sleep while George got coached by David. Down he and under a low bit, David pushed a rock off a sandy slope. Sounded like the whole world was ending. Even George lost his coat. We covered against the wall for 20 secs. The reverberations again echo on the ceiling made it appear from above. Detached, Luke and Rob joined us, went and topped the dead bit in the north end, while George and I bodged a survey drawing in this chamber.

T/U 6 hrs

16/7/2015

107 - Old Route

Ollie + Jenny

Got a lift up the hill in the morning and after a bit of faffing headed down 107 with a view to looking at the old route beyond the entrance pitch. Used the dadas bit I'd placed in 2012, and Ollie traversed along to get a y-hang at the end. This got us nicely to the bottom of the old p23, and I noticed that upon the right was the window through from the ramp but above ropeless. (We'd been down from there in 2013, but gone right not left, so soon this pitch, but not known for sure that it was the original route.

Ollie then put in his second y-hang of the day, then got bored of rigging properly and stuck in a rope protector and headed down. This got us to the bottom of the p18, and down the next short (2.3m) drop as well. The p18 looks fine in terms of water (our rig is quite a bit across from the wet (1978 way) but the next little drop was in the water.

Took off our SRT kit and headed off - there are several passages here, it is more complex than the 1978 survey implies, though that survey is correct in what it does show. Headed down a eastward passage, a mixture of crawling + tedious wiggling. After a bit the floor track leads right then left - west followed by a pretty stal. On the way back (surveying) noticed that the other way on was the drafty route. Surveyed back to the bottom of the rope, then left that survey hangs for now and designed out planning is come in via the ropeless window tomorrow. Consequently surveyed the top pitch now, but failed to find the station to tie it to.

T/U 6 1/2 hrs  
First fix of the dadas and sketching from yesterday.

17/7/2015

107 - Old Route

Ollie + Jenny

Failed to get an early start, and headed into the cave around noon. Ollie rigged into where we were yesterday via the window in ropeless, to yesterday's 2nd y-hang. This time with a rebelay not a rope protector. For reasons I now forget, this semi-free hanging rebelay got rigged with a clown for added entertainment. Got down into Old Riff via the 1978 route (climb doesn't need a bit/rope) started surveying from the big boulder that all the surveys in the area seem to connect to. Then tied into the end of yesterday's tubular survey and then the start of yesterday's p18 survey (at the y-hang bit) then up to the 2015 station on the ropeless window. Not sure how that took a whole trip, but it did somehow.

T/U 6 1/2 hrs

18/7/2015

Surface stuff around 107/83/bser05

Ollie + Jenny

Decided on a morning of surface work + afternoon of gear fettling ready for an early start tomorrow to avoid being on a wet pitch at thunderstorm time. Walked up past 83 to look above Thunder Road. It is quite chassy + bouldery here. Found a few (not drafty) piles of rocks I could climb into, but nothing that went or was worth tagging sadly. Headed over to cave 05 B - Ollie to APS - we saw that the old Ashburn down of cave 05 in the dataset is closer to reality than the newer Mill's fix. Noticed that 1987-02 has a tag bit but no tag - will try and fix that later on. Walked back via above 107. directions to look for entrances above the caves. Only found one possibility (not for above our kit) - plan to return with rope another day.

19/7/2015 107 - Old Route

Ollie + Jenny

Got underground nice and early 9:10am! Whizzed down to where the two old routes diverge and headed towards the p67. Turns out you traverse over the p67 to get to the p5. We did this using 1978 spits just to have a look. There is a trickle of water down the back wall, and a rift heading west. We traversed along this, it was the sort of rift with no visible floor and of unknown depth. After a short while the rift got wider, and I became incredibly scared and refused to continue. We surmounted back to the head of the p67. On typing in the data it seems ~~map~~ that ~~my~~ my pitch detector radar knew we were about to traverse over the p100, and hence made me stop. Ollie rigged down the p67 directly (ie not via the p5) and got a y-hang that made a lovely free hang, despite a complex pitch head. Sadly it got wet, and the rope was fast so Ollie had to wrap it round his leg. This gave him Zophras, absail indelibly, or bonique his leg. He took the first spits.

Ollie shouts up 'I'm down, the pitch is wet'. I wonder how wet, is he telling me that he will come back up and add some rigging, or that I should come down but make sure the swing box is closed first. After a few iterations of Ollie shouting 'the hang is wet' and me shouting 'can I descend' Ollie eventually shouts that he is coming up.

This would be the perfect time to sit in my lovely new bithy bag, except I am the wrong side of the piton, wedged in a rift. After a while I see Ollie putting in a bolt and I can follow down. We end up pitch side ~~with~~ with a couple of rebelayings and a comedy deviation. We swing up this and down to the bottom of the main hang. Then have a quick wander down to the next short pitch.

We survey back out descending up to the y-hang so the air can be made drier for next time. Uneventful end, to get out just as the thunderstorm starts.

P.S. They were pretty hard core in 1978. 67m pitch on ladders!

T/U 10hrs

20/7/2015

BALCONY

DAVID & LUKE

We went in Balcony to push 94a and 95a. The passage continued under a boulder which could be climbed up from the far side to reach 95a by an easy 4m free climb. 95a is nice straight walking passage which lead to a 3m climb into a chamber, with numerous leads. A small pitch may lead to horizontal passage - or it could be another above. Traversing around the pitch would provide 2 further leads.

To the left of the climb a large, rift can be followed until a climb down requiring a rope is encountered. Before this a crawling passage was found to the right leading to a 4m pitch. It seems likely that several of these leads are connected.

94a was pushed for about 10m where it turns a corner at a rocky slope. We left this as a walking lead.

21/7/2015 TUNNOCKS DAVID & MARK

→ RIGGING IMPROVEMENTS AND PUSHING BELOW NUMBER OF THE BEAST

After an early start we got under ground at 7:45 and continued to make good progress down to number of the beast. Mark added some deviations to the pitch below No. of the B. which is now much better. A few other sections were also improved by additional bolts. Upon reaching the tensioned traverse Mark let me push the next pitch. Below the traverse there are two passages pitch. The draft is coming from the left one so I put two Y hangs in and dropped down ~ 20m to another chamber. The passage continues down another pitch in a popcorn heavy rift. I was less happy with my rigging here and another Y hang rebelay should be added. After this ~ 10m pitch another chamber is reached. Again another pitch ~ 20m must be dropped. I started putting some bolts in before running out of drill battery. This is quite the lead the dust from the drill was being blown upwards!

The prussik out was unrelenting but fast which meant we exited at 5:15 pm with just enough energy to amble down to the car park and eat some veggie slop kindly prepared by Julian.

T/A = 9 hrs.

16/7/2015 BALKON HÜHLE

RACHEL, LUKE & MARK

AFTER SOME UNEXPECTED SURFACE PROSPECTING (READ: GETTING LOST) AT THE LEFT HAND VALLEY BETWEEN TUNNOCKS AND BALCONY, WE MADE IT TO THE ENTRANCE ABOUT 12. SINCE THE DARK ARTS HAD PRETTY MUCH BEEN KILLED OFF WE SET OUR SIGHTS ON A CLUSTER OF A/B LEADS (85, 86, 87) IN THE FAR SIDE. LUKE RIGGED THE TRAVERSE BY 60C SINCE THE MUD HERE WAS PARTICULARLY THICK AND PERSISTANT. IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE BLOCKED ALL THE BOLTS ALONG

THIS PITCH NOW CALLED

"Widow Twanky's Knicker Elastic"

HERE WITH SMALL STONES TO PREVENT THEM BEING USED AGAIN? (NOT MENTIONED IN LAST YEAR'S LOG BOOK AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE). UNPREPARED, LUKE SET ABOUT BOLTING AND SOON WE REACHED A SECOND TRAVERSE, RIGGED BY MARK. THERE SEEMS TO BE A MINOR FLAW ON THE SURVEY WHERE STOMPING PASSAGE LEADS TO A SANDY CHAMBER, WHICH IS ACTUALLY A FUCK-OFF 63 + m B PITCH. CLOSER INSPECTION OF THE SURVEY SHOWS THIS DETAIL HIDDEN UNDER THE SAND, AND PERHAPS THIS COULD BE AMENDED TO PREVENT LUKE MAKING ANY MORE SURPRISED SQUEAKS & GIGGLES.

WE TURNED AROUND AND TOOK THE LONG ROUTE ROUND TO THE CLUSTER OF LEADS WE WERE AFTER, FOLLOWING THE SURVEY SINCE NONE OF US HAD BEEN IN THIS DIRECTION BEFORE. I RIGGED THE P10m AND WE QUICKLY FOUND THE F.O. HOLE FROM THE OTHER (FAR FAR SIDE?) SIDE. AT 85, 86 IT WAS REALLY LOOSE ROCK AND LUKE "SCAMPERS" UP THE CLIMB AT 87, FINDING IT WAS A CONNECTION WITHOUT RIGGING TO 85, 86.

HERE MARK'S NERVES WERE CRUSHED WITH ALL THE LOOSE SLATEY ROCK THAT FOLLOWED WITH EVERY STEP LUKE MADE OVER THE PITCH 20, SO WE RETREATED AND TIED IN THE TWO B LEADS AT 35, 36. AS THE PRE-'IS SURVEY SUGGESTS, THEY DO CONNECT, AND LEAD ON TO A SIZEABLE CHAMBER, WHICH WAS QUITE WET AND LEAD TO TWO PITCHES AND NOT A LOT ELSE. (SMALL)

COLD, WE LEFT, T.U. ~ 7 HOURS.

17/7/15

BALCON HÜTLE

RACHEL, LUKE & FRANK

KEEN AND INSPIRED, WE TOOK SOME SLINGS



BACK TO LUKE'S RISKY CLIMB AND FOLLOWED IT UP TO A CHIMNEY CLIMB. FRANK FOLLOWED HIM UP AND SODDENLY BACKED OFF, EXCLAIMING "FUCK ME". LUKE'S OPINION ON WHAT IS FREE-CLIMBABLE APPARANTLEY NEEDS SOME TUNING. BOLTS WERE PURLED AND A PATH AROUND THE PITCH TO 86A WAS SURVEYED. THIS LEAD TO TWO LEADS, A RIGHT-HAND ROUTE WHICH FINALLY LEAD TO A BOULDER CHOKE.

DECIDING THE LEFT HAND PASSAGE WAS MUCH MORE INSPIRING, WE RETURNED THE NEXT DAY...

T.U. 8 HOURS.

18/7/15

BALKON HÜHLE

RACHEL, FRANK & ROB

AFTER SHOWING ROB THE SIGHTS IN BALCONY, WE CONTINUED ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE. IT CONTINUED MUCH FURTHER THAN WE EXPECTED, LEADING TO A ~25m CHAMBER CONTAINING A 15m PITCH AND TWO LEADS ON THE FAR WALL.

THE LEAD ON THE LEFT CONNECTED ROUND TO 85A, WHILE THE RIGHT LED ON UP A LOOSE STEEP ~~CLIMB~~ RIFT. HERE A COUPLE ON SMALL PITCHES WERE FOUND AND WHAT SEEMS TO BE A MERAIN LEFT BY AN ICE FLOW. ~~THIS "GRAVE HILL"~~ FROM HERE, IT WOULD GET A BIT WET AND BOLTING WAS REQUIRED, SO WE UPPED AND LEFT.

T.U. 7 HOURS.

19/7/15

BALKON HÜHLE

RACHEL & FRANK

FRANK AND I RETURNED TO CONTINUE SURVEYING AND KILL OFF A FEW LEADS, THAT LED OFF HORIZONTALLY. THERE IS A HUGE DRAUGHT ACTING AND FURTHER EXPLORATION IS REQUIRED. SAID DRAUGHT MADE IT TOO COLD TO CONTINUE AFTER SEVERAL HOURS, SO WE SET OFF TO LOOK FOR THE MANY OTHER GROUPS DOWN BALCONY. AFTER DISMISSING A MUDDY CLIMB WHICH LOOKED UNINVITING, WE LEFT THE SEARCH FOR JULIAN'S GROUP. WE FOLLOWED TURTLE HEAD TO WARM OURSELVES UP, AND ULTIMATELY LEFT, CONSIDERING THE SMALL HOLE FRANK HAD BEGUN DIGGING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ENTRANCE SERIES.

A HUMAN-SIZED HOLE WAS VISIBLE, WITH A STEEP TUBE LEADING DOWNWARDS FOR A FEW METRES. WE LEFT OUR SRT KITS AND DESCENDED; MYSELF, SOMEWHAT UNENTHUSIASTIC, MAKING COMMENTS LIKE "TYPICAL MENDIP CAVER" AND "GRRR". HOWEVER IT SOON OPENED UP INTO A T-JUNCTION, WITH 5m HIGH CEILINGS, AND SHATTERED BOULDERS. WE FOLLOWED THE ROUTE TO THE LEFT, A RIFT LEADING TO A 10m PITCH (QMA), WITH A FURTHER QMA CLIMB UP A SMALL HOLE ON THE LEFT-HAND WALL. IT WAS V. COLD DOWN HERE AND SEEMINGLY SOLID BOULDERS WERE ACTUALLY FRAGMENTED HELD TOGETHER WITH WISH-FULL THINKING.

WHILST FRANK DREW UP THE SURVEY, I HAD A GANDER DOWN THE RIGHT HAND PASSAGE, STICKING TO THE RIGHT AND IGNORING FURTHER LEADS OFF. I FOLLOWED THE SOUND OF RUNNING WATER AND FINALLY FOUND THE CONNECTION WITH "ROOM WITH A VIEW". FRANK FOLLOWED AND POINTED OUT A SOMEWHAT FRISKY LOOKING BOULDER ON ~~THE~~ A LEFT-HAND LEAD THAT I HAD PASSED, ~~HE~~ A FEW METRES ACROSS AND HELD A COUPLE METRES UP BY TWO POINTS CRUMBLING AWAY. I OBEDIENTLY STOOD UNDER SAID BOULDER FOR FRANK TO TAKE A PHOTO.

RATHER GIDDY, WE HEARD GEORGE AND  
DAVID DESCEND DOWN THE TUBE AND WE  
WERE HAPPY TO SEE ~~THEIR~~ THEIR  
ENTHUSIASM TOO. QUITE COLD, WE LEFT, WITH  
A BIT OF HEAVING TO GET BACK OUT.

T.U. 9 HOURS.

18/7/15 Balcony Hohlé Lake, Anthony, Dan  
The aim was to rig<sup>g</sup> rift 59b with the hope  
of entering the large Sandy <sup>chamber</sup> ~~side~~ "massive hole"  
the rift initial started out in the right direction  
and after some handy points from Anthony I started  
on the process of dropping multiple Y hangs. (rigging  
guide with survey)  
Well Anthony and Dan set off to retrieve  
more rope from further in the cave and  
take many photos they conveniently returned  
when ~~my~~ ~~batter~~ the drill battery ran out  
after "6 holes" so returned up to collect the  
rope and extra battery after explaining to Dan and  
Anthony I was close to the bottom and would only  
be 30mins, I dropped the last pitch which was  
longer than expected upon reaching the bottom the  
rift ~~was~~, decided to change direction ~~so~~ away  
from the massive hole I was aiming to enter, it  
unfortunately continued in the other direction so a  
return trip would be needed to survey and derig  
I returned an hour later to find a cold Dan  
and Anthony and headed out.

7

19/7/15 Balcony höhle Luke + Rob 596

A return trip was needed to survey and derig the disaster of the previous day. I managed to persuade (convince) <sup>spellcheck</sup> Rob into helping me, believing it would crap out and thus be an easy job and being able to move the rope to other areas of the cave this was not to be the rift continued so needed surveying after a couple of sketchy free climbs we made it into another big hole this

was wet and ~~more~~ did not look like a suitable way to rig from (could shorten the wetness of the rigging) from the top. This would likely be a thing which was ~~going~~ to be done when all the excellent A leads had been killed off. ~~we~~ Rob ~~derigged~~ derigged by the time we set off Rachel and Frank were ~~already~~ exiting the area to more warmer leads. We continued so as to give Julian's team the rope we found them in a massive surveying fuck up but were directed along the passage to where there was a dead bat by the time Julian caught up the bat was flat and no longer well preserved. ~~Since~~ Since 5 people were planning to exit the cave me and Rob headed off into the extremities of the turtle head to access the leads this proved quite interesting and managed to kill off an A lead (Q2a) by just striking my head into it (continued ~~that~~ the following day). (8)

21/7/15 Balcony höhle Luke & + multiple teams

Showered ~~head~~ a new team into Balcony, showing them the ~~only~~ leads and rope left them to survey returning from the end of turtle head to the entrance pitch in 25 mins to meet up with other teams which was exciting early for a trip down the hill.

20/7/15

Turnovers complete rig to pushing point  
below Number of the Beast

Anthony, Rachel

Headed down with very little gear since it had all been taken in previously. Dumped some fluggie. Sorted out the Procastination rig. Also dumped some fluggie at the top and established an emergency dump at the bottom (in the sandy bit between the juxta pitch below Procastination and Bring on the Clowns) in case of fluggie.

Descended Number of the Beast, which needed some work since the rebelry loops were ridiculously tight. After the Turnovers entrance pitch I am not used to pitches where you can't see the previous rebelry bolt, so had failed to leave enough slack. Rachel sorted out the rig whilst I carried on down. Such was her diligence that she ended up ascending the pitch three times to make sure everything was properly too - which served the purpose of keeping her warm but entailed lots of extra prising.

Meanwhile I continued rigging the scraggy pitches towards the pushing point. The second of these was particularly dice and clearly in need of remedial work - what SRT allocate put this rig in? Arriving at the 2013 pushing point, I was pleasantly surprised to find a rigged rope hanging down the next two drops and along the (rather air) traverse to the head of the final pitch - all I had to do was install a couple of deviations. By the time I had done this, Rachel had joined me so I rigged the final pitch and we both descended.

At the bottom, there are two main ways on. There is a phreatic passage with a floor trench (traverse line required) which doesn't take much of a draught (QM-A). The star lead works a pitch in the other direction with a working gale blowing up it. (QM-A).

At that point we began the long slog out. At Bring on the Clowns, a large chunk of wall that Rachel was hanging onto fell off onto her and the rope, causing a certain degree of disquiet. By the time we emerged, Rachel declared that she didn't want to see another rebelry for a while and was even contemplating caving in the Mendips.

(\*) It was me.

TJU 12½ hrs.

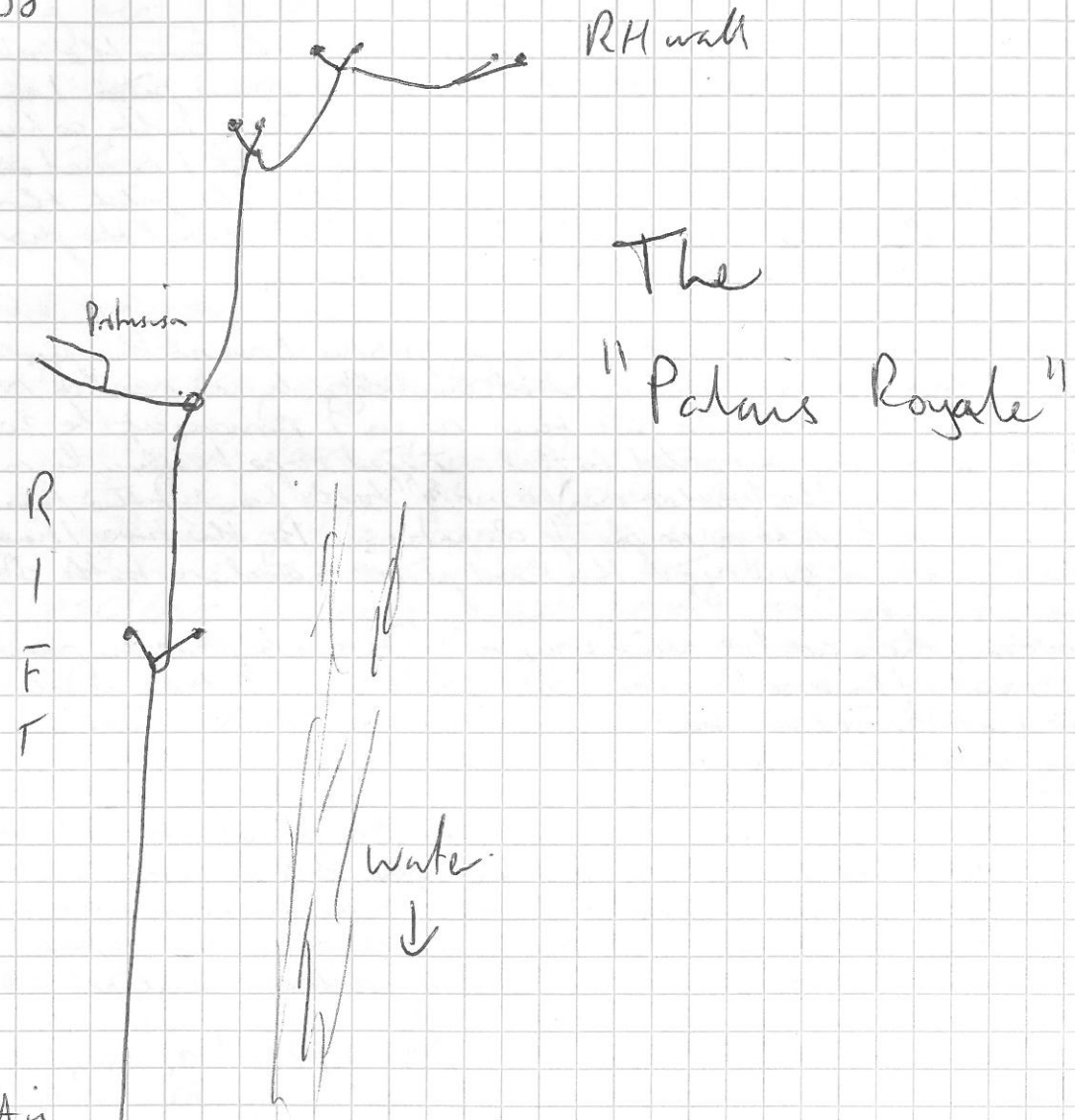
26/7/15

Balcony

Mark Don

An attempt to descend the "Sandy Chaise"  
as described by Rachel on 16/7.

Rigged as follows



at this point the walls of the rift have a lot of sharp flakes. So difficult to get a good hand without going into the water.

→ try from the "Far Side" ???

When detaching Mark managed to fall  
down a hole, injuring his head. First  
aid kit came out and we bandaged it  
up. Slow struggle out. Pushing - with  
one hand is harder than you might think.  
- T/U 5 hours.

2015-07-21 Wooker, Matt, Sarah (+ Luke)  
Balconable - Eivind's junction leads (Icecock)

1st expo trip for Sarah, 1st trip to BH for Wooker.

Carried gear out after cooking sunny stuff so only gait  
underground before midday. Luke showed us the route to the  
low end + gear dump & the various leads.

Friendly cave, but a fair way to the end. Had a look at the  
near (wet) side of big pit to consider rigging. Could be done from  
this side, but prob better from other.

Decided to start beyond 9th lead. Summed rift off to left:  
short passage to dead end, with scuffling below. Sarah got to dance  
dicks x2.

Next looked at climb at the end. Ragged-looking pile of boulders  
at the hole at top. Wooker climbed up ~~the~~ ~~climb~~ ~~and~~ found  
it was in fact quite solid. Lushy rift at top with ice  
formation. Big draught through small hole.

Summed up & others followed then explored. Matt climbed up  
to R on Ledge - looks like a lead. Sarah went round corner to find  
main Ave - base, with more ice. Very impressive. Called 'Icecock'

Summed it all till it was 5:30 & time to go home.  
We got a bit lost on way out, & Matt overtook, so confusion for a  
few mins. Soon back together, then in junction territory so Matt  
could get us home. 80m of entrance felt quite long. 500m common  
is going to be super-long.

T/U 8 hrs.

Passage Desc: Passage on L riffs to <sup>5m</sup> ~~climb~~ traverse leading south dead-end.  
Sandy dig & small choked inlet. Start back ~~route~~ joins into bottom  
of traverse & assesses bottom of gorge below climb to Icecock.  
On main way ~~at~~ reaches small hole above top lookstone.  
Climbing from reaches high <sup>(25m)</sup> rocky rift with ice pull on for with  
Ledge ascends NE to climb (Q1 B). To L (W) of the head

to R in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~west~~ <sup>west</sup> ~~west~~ <sup>west</sup>. Pounce off on R (QMA). Almost immediately break out into large <sup>rock</sup> space which is clear bottom of a 40m Ave. In up or W wall is a space ~~to~~ (could be held to). On R is small pit in wall QMC (p7). Ahead, pit falls in & another icefall comes in from smaller area on L (QMX). Beyond is short drop down (QMB). Draught has been lost here - no doubt it is coming down the pit.

22/7/15 Turnovers - pushing below Number of the Beast Anthony & Wokee

The objective of this trip was to clear the surveying benches and ~~push~~ continue the push from where David left off the day before. Wokee had misplaced his Partner, and was thinking this was a particularly bad day to be without this device - so he was delighted to unearth it from the depths of his duffel bag at the watering hole near Caramel Cathedral.

Uneventful trip in to the traverse at the top of the last ~~path~~ <sup>pit</sup> from 2014 (Maze Calse) where we started the survey - Wokee on hook, your narrator wielding the Dipox and taking some low quality photos with my point-and-shoot camera. Tried to shoot a leg from the bottom of Maze tube to the deviation knob which repeatedly failed. Attempts on the exit met a similar lack of success, so a tape measure will be taken on the next trip. The advice from Tommy is that ~~more~~ shooting such legs in the downward direction often meets with more success.

From the bottom we continued surveying the ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> drops noted by David. The pitch heads were absolutely bowling, and I didn't feel much like having a word for ages taking multiple distance readings. Pitches are to be called "Inferno".

Arriving at the y-hang installed by David, Wokee unhoused the rig by placing a bolt for an intermediate deviation, a further bolt for a reeling and a reeling from a natural that looks more convincing from below. Pitch is ~30m and leads in a large chamber full of huge boulders covered in black mud - to be christened "Kraken". There is a large ridge of boulders in the middle that we climbed up. A rope will be needed to descend the other side, and a way on can be seen ~~at~~ under a large arch in the far corner (QMA). - It is unclear whether there are any further pitches. Even though the passage is 30 x 15m in cross section, there is a discernible draught.

Completed the survey then headed out at no great pace but without incident.

T/u 15 1/2 hrs.



22/7/15 85 (and 82) Blind as a Bat

Ollie + Jenny

Ollie had an unhappy turning, so something near the surface seemed wire. Decided to look at a the lead in 85 that we'd spotted in 2007 and noted in 1977. Got to the entrance to find Ollie had his prescription sunglasses, so he had to come blind. Due to not wanting to carry too much stuff I was only wearing thermal and my oversuit which was cold.

Followed the obvious way in 85 ignoring the passage to 82. Followed down a couple of lovely little climbs, then doubled back to appear 2/3 of the way down a ice slope. I noticed an enticing looking passage opposite us on the other side of the ice slope. Decided that the best way to access that and the drop below was to enter ~~the~~ from above. So I waited while Ollie headed out to confirm that the slope did come from the 82-85 passage. It did so we got SET + balking gear and I rigged (badly) down to get into the passage. This passage headed off very straight, sometimes crawling, sometimes walking with various solution pockets/overhangs on the left. Eventually ended at a maddy/gravelly dig. Scrambled out to the bottom of the rope where Ollie went down to the bottom before heading out. Saw an unhappy bat frozen on the ice which I photographed. I hoped it was having a little sleep, but Ollie assured me it was dead and frozen in place. Finished surveying this route and the climbs route down.

T/U 5 hrs

23/7/15 107 - Old route

Ollie + Jenny

Tried again for an early start to beat any nighttime thunder storms later on - didn't do so well this time getting under ground at ~10am. Got to the p67, Ollie set off down adding two (both) deviations on the way which make the hang dry in dry weather (I suspect it would be damp and miserable in wet weather, but not impassable).

Followed the rift down (as Team Youth had in 1978). Used the tail of the rope on the p67 to rig the following p5. Having successfully abseiled down the p67 without incident & 1m above the floor of the p5 I tried to talk to Ollie and sheepishly got my hair caught in my rock. Idiot! At least it is easier to free from a rock than a stop. A bit further along the rift and we reached another short pitch (p1). This was followed by a climb that Ollie rigged with the same rope so that it would still be passable if it rained. Some more rift was followed by another climb - not very steep, but in the water (we didn't rig). A little more rift and we got to another short pitch, the rift widened here and was very drippy from inlets. Turns out this is where the 1978 p100 enters, though we didn't realize we were this far down. Another short drop on the same rope and the rift got narrower and rougher. Ollie climbed up a few metres to where it got wider and traversed along at this level ~~and~~ it shortly got wider and deeper and he started to rig down before realising we hadn't much rope left. Failing to realise where we were, decided to swing out. It was a very tedious rift to survey and I was shit at picking stations. Nearly gave up swinging, but decided to have a break while Ollie carried the dig up the next pitch, I went back and de-rigged the ~~other~~ deeper ones. Finished the survey and headed out without ladder. The p67 did a good job at spreading us out for the ~~descent~~ ascent, so I didn't have to wait at all and was actually quite warm by the time I got out. With no flow pressure (and carrying the dig) it took 1hr 20 from the bottom of the 67 out.

T/U 10 1/2

24/7/15

Surface

Olly + Jenny

A real day for Olly's knees. Headed to 13-SW-01 and tagged it, places what must have been my first hand bolt. I can see why drills are so popular! Followed the old red paint marks, up at first to an old cucc cave marked "1+ cucc" and "1987" - think this must be 2006-03 and next door 2006-02, except we didn't see any tags. Having looked at the 2006 photos, I am certain that we were at the correct place. So either we failed to see the tag, or the website is wrong in thinking that it is tagged.

27/7/15

107 - Leads near coldest place in earth  
Double Beep

Wookey + Jenny

After a quiet night on my own at the 76bivi the plan was to meet Wookey at the 107 entrance at 9am. Unfortunately I didn't get the sms telling me he was going to wait until the rain eased off, so I spent nearly 2 hours sitting under the tarp - having a tarp and the rock shelf near the entrance is an excellent idea.

Headed towards China wondering how far we'd get given the high water levels. The end of the Easy Traverse looked wet but passable. We suspected the Too Bold would be too wet, so it seemed silly to get soaked now unnecessarily. Decided to look at something else. The first interesting lead we got to was 13-SL-0A incident, borrowed the rope from Coldest Place in Earth and Wookey went down with a natural and one bolt. The rope wasn't long enough to get all the way down but did land on a floor with a rifty passage leading off. After a couple of climbs down we lost the draft to a small floor trench on the left. Passage continued, uphill and narrow until we could stand up again. We reached a T junction with a howling gale (from L to R). Followed right in high rifty passage, traversing over a series of drops until a window over a pitch. Surveyed out, until I went to cold - went back to Coldest for food + more clothes for Wookey before finishing the survey. This is called Doublebeep due to the existing Distox 2 that beeps twice if  $T/U: 61/2$  you get the right answer (or at least a consistently wrong answer).

28/7/15

107 - 101, tunnelstone

Wookey + Jenny

A more successful attempt to get to 101, got to China in 1hr45 having relocated the Doublebeep rope back to Coldest on the way in. Slowed down a bit due to not really knowing the way and Jenny being slow especially on all the tedious little climbs, but got ourselves to the tunnelstone, and holey cow. 56. Wookey started bolting down while I went round Welly Popper passage to (a) keep warm and (b) check that Wookey wasn't about to bolt into known passage. Got to a junction, headed left and got to a climb I was too wussy to descent (turns out this connects with station 56), then followed right before realising I was in previously unvisited passage, so headed back to 56. Wookey was some way down but had run out of rope so we re-rigged with the long rope. Wookey got to the bottom, said it ended and bolted to re-ascend. He thoroughly checked out the rift on the way up and found a window in to a few vertical crevices which we followed down via a loose hand to the floor. A short way on the water padded floors down a short steep with a bigger (wider) pitch likely beyond. This looked small + wet, so Wookey climbed up to some ledges to follow the rift at a higher level. Pat was up he placed a very fast bolt, hence the passage name "Fastest Bolt in the west". Allowed these rising ledges to a quality natural at the end, we'd hoped to traverse to a widening above the pitch for a nice easy descent. Unfortunately this didn't happen - the traverse continued, mostly

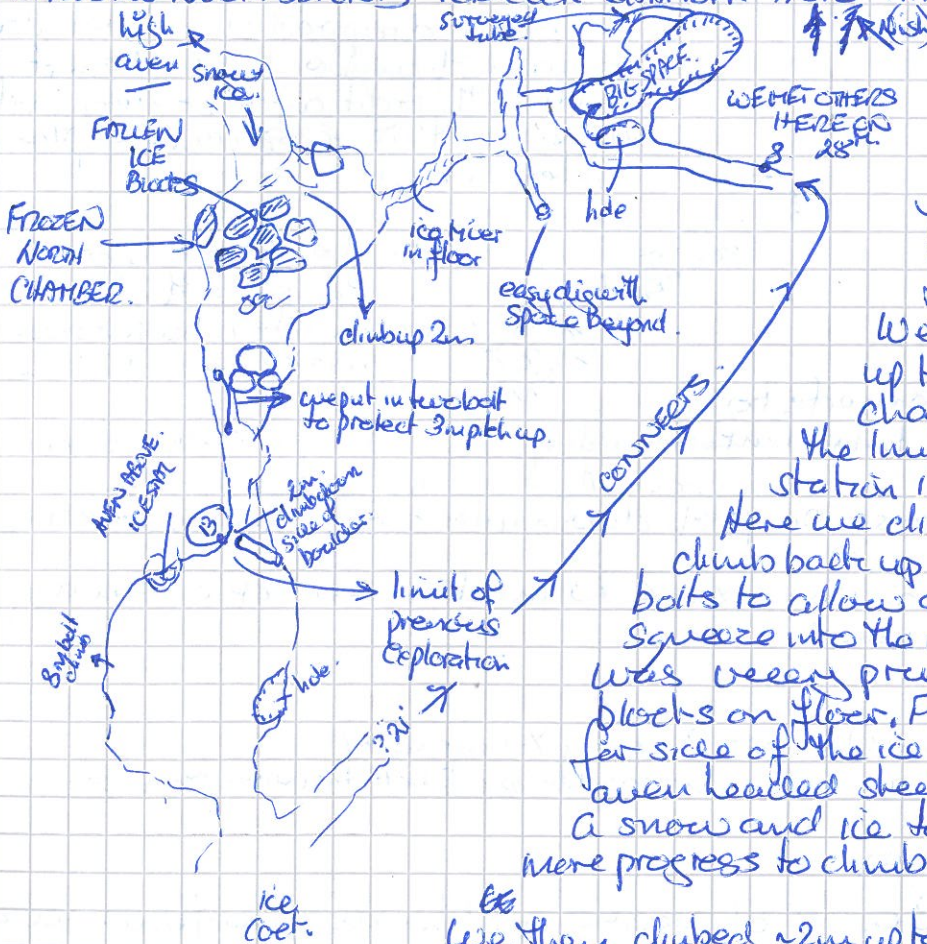
[Named Falling Spike after a lovely # spike hand hold that Wadley removed from the wall near Welly Popper.

bit small but no easy way down. Surveyed out. Decided to leave it rigged but to take the drill out. Surveyed the side passage from Welly Popper. That I had scooped earlier. Nice walking passage with draft to an aken with water. (and a good place for a wee!). After this the passage split into two - small way on with the way on the left, and small dry way straight on. We think that the draft got lost on a window part way up on the right (needs gear to get in to). Headed out, took a bit over an hour to China (with some felling), then 2 hours out from there. The pitch west of China is nicely long enough to mean you don't hold people up on the way out. The drift bag was much less bad than I expected on the Restless rifts. Happy to get out and find it not raining - had time to walk home and have dinner before it rained.

T/a - 14 1/2

27 JULY 2015. BALCONY HUTCH. Pele falling, Floor Ledge.

EXPLORING NORTH BEYOND ICE COCK CHAMBER INTO THE FROZEN NORTH



We watched the rain come down until boredom made us crack at about midday. Then we headed up to the "94a 95b" lead area to the north of the cave. We located the loose club up to the fallen ice cock chamber and then found the limit of exploration at station 13 in the next chamber. Here we climbed down to a short climb back up - where Pele placed two bolts to allow a mantle shelf and squeeze into the next chamber - which was very proddi. lots of fallen ice blocks on floor. Floor took photo. On the far side of the ice blocks a very high (30m) aken headed steeply upwards, and has a snow and ice tongue (Ben later made more progress to climb along up this... but steep)

We then climbed ~2m up to right of chamber to enter a walking/sloping tube with a nice river of ice on floor. We thought it would soon crap out - but we were rewarded with a nice view into a chamber/rift. Huzzah!

We first survey a tube that looped to NW, ending with a view into the chamber. Pele scrambled round wall, and maybe a high ledge here. With a 1100munk boot we wobbled back out to camp

TU 6.5hrs

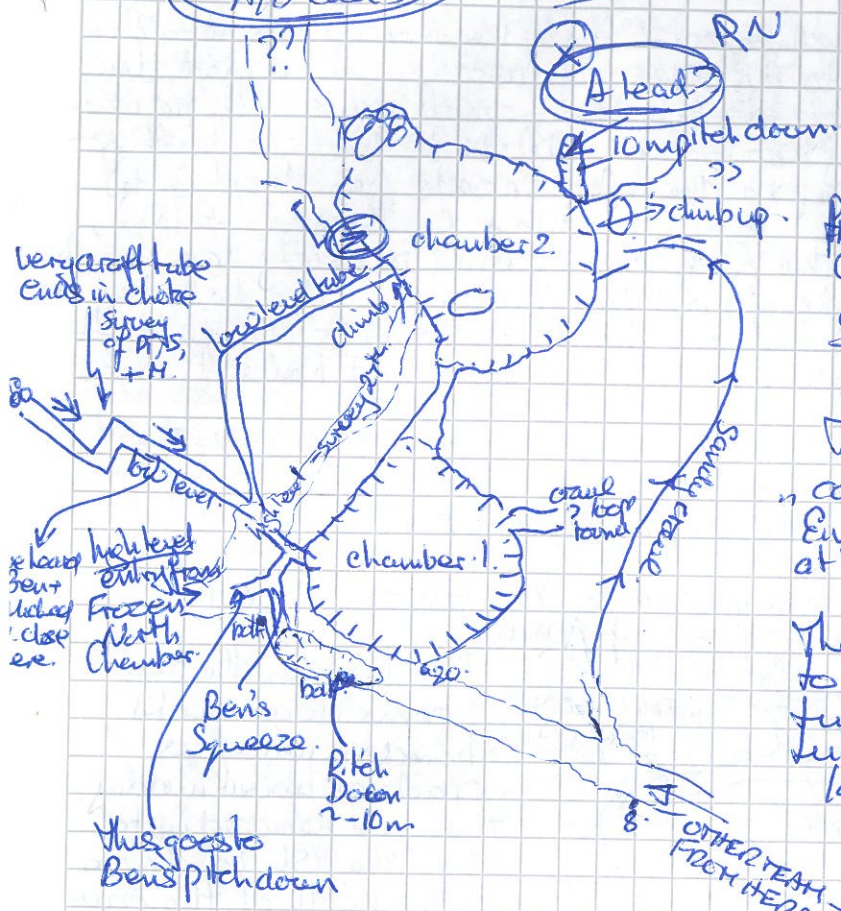
(X) High - A/B lead??

FAR FROZEN NORTH AREA

28<sup>th</sup> July 2015

BARCONY HOTEL FROZEN NORTH.

Pete Talling, Sarah, Ben W. (awa then Matt helped survey).



We followed route of previous day from Frozen North Chamber to the Chamber.

Sarah placed just bolts to get into A lead heading south. We then found footsteps in it. And then a survey station. And the other covers!!! So this connects back into En Una Zuzuzis Chamber. Connected at their station number 8.

Then Ben dropped short pitch down to gain Chamber 1 via a short tube with right angle. - two junction tubes in this area were explored later in day.

Chamber 1 had a crawl on far side that connects into known passage in ~30m.

Chamber 1 quietly connects to Chamber 2 via short tube. Unfortunately Chamber 2 ends at a solid boulder choke. There is a good (A) lead in right side of Chamber 2 - which is easy 10m pitch down into a rift. looks interesting.

Matt climbed up from Chamber 2 to meet the end of a sandy tube that other had pushed.

LEADS.

- (X) 10m pitch down from Chamber 2 - easy Y-hang at top.
- (Y) There may be a high level that can be reached by 3 bolt traverse from (Z)

Lower tubes off Chamber 1

- Back in those tubes Ben et al dropped a pitch - and then found "300-200m" of tube - passage beyond that ended in a choke. (Matt in et al surveyed to pitch later in day?)
- Pete, Sarah, Matt followed a watery tube from Chamber 2 that linked back to Chamber 1. - near survey station 26. They then followed a very draft tube north for ~40m to a choke, that also drafts. En route they heard Michael + Ben in their leads.

My feeling is that leads X + Y are well worth a look - more so than tubes??

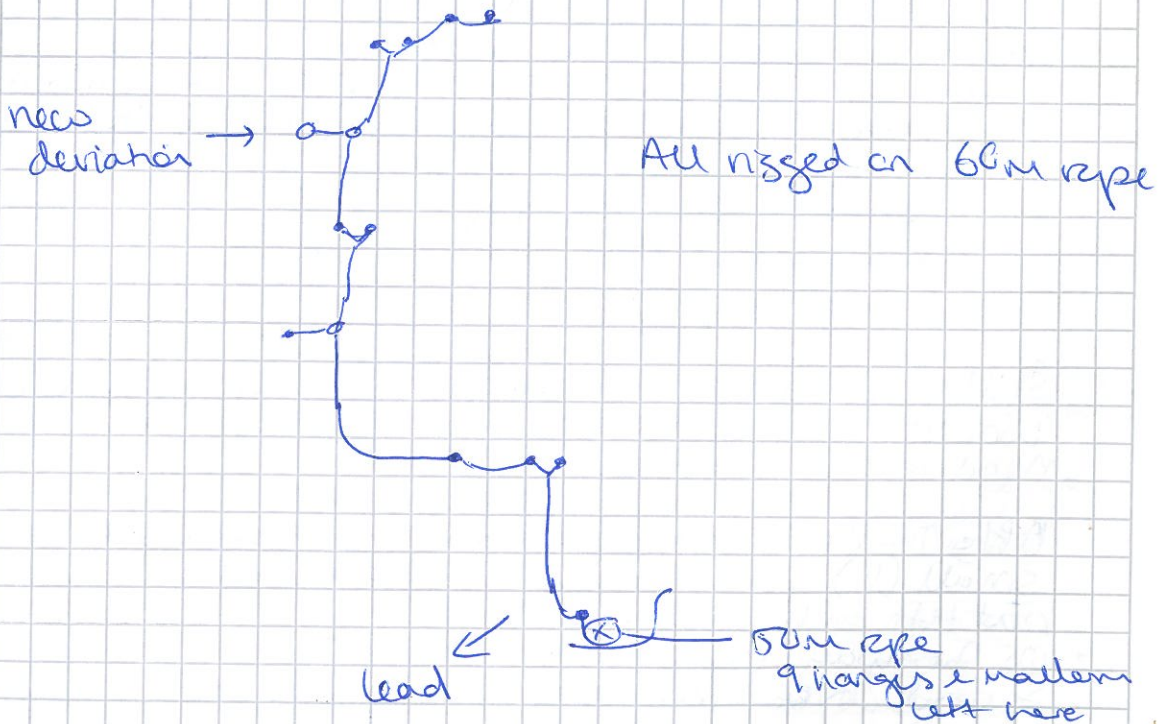
28<sup>th</sup> July - Tunnocks - Clayton's Cock Up  
Fleur, Viz, Roxy

Having arrived on expo to calls from Wockey & Anthony to rig to the Clayton's Cock Up leads I duly obliged.

Managed to persuade Roxy + Viz to join me, despite tales of an even extra acrobatic 'enhance' series to tunnocks.

Made very steady progress downwards. Was pleased to remember the way to the top of string theory & the into Westside story. Clubs were more strenuous than I remembered. C10 in a tube. P3 with knotted rope should probably be a real pitch.

Arrived at Clayton's Cock Up & started rigging down "Beam Beam Pitch". All Tom's bolts still functional but I added another deviation. 60m rope saw me to the 2013 limit.



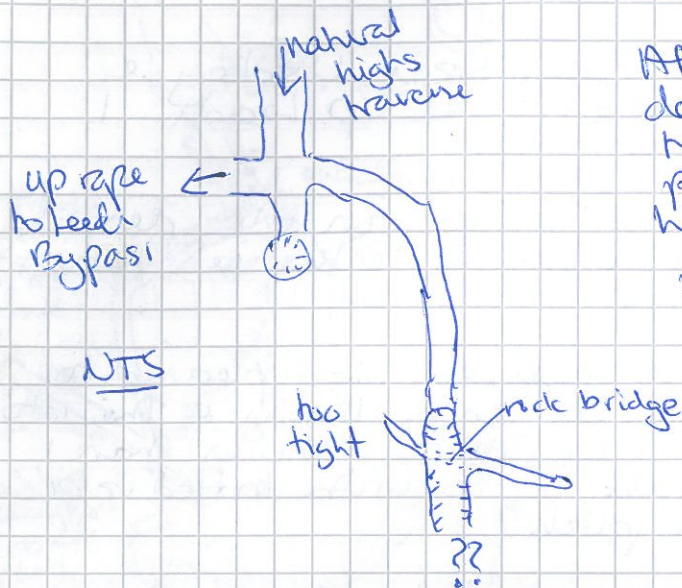
Viz was starting to feel the remoteness, so after I placed a bolt & tied off the rope we left.

But, boy did the lead look good.

May need some ridding. In retrospect perhaps go back up and swing out to get further down the drift/pitch.

TU 12hrs

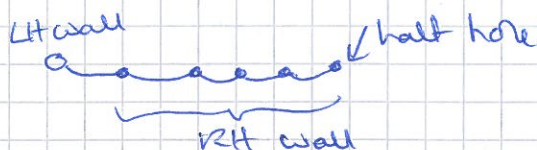
29th July Balcony - Bipedal Passage  
 Flour, Pete, Roxy



After 12 hrs underground the day before I fancied a shorter trip and targeted a south pointing lead after natural highs.

Directions: After natural high traverse, instead of going right up the climb into ledge bypass, turn left. Follow the main passage, a walking sized rift. It ends in a big hole.

The hole was in fact, somewhat longer + deeper than I had remembered. Looking good though! We had a 39m rope + 1/2 drill batteries. Starting with the new drill battery I started to bolt round the ledge on the right hand wall. 1/2 hour later the battery died - grrr!! The remaining 1/2 battery got on 2/3 way along the right wall:



Still hard to see how far the straight ahead lead would go - potentially a top level + a mid level need to be checked.

After the drill batteries went, I belayed Pete across a small (!!) rock bridge to check out a side passage, but it ended in a blind pot. On the way back Pete ~~threw~~ Threw rocks down - 2 second free fall and a further 8 second rattle!

We then did two token survey legs before retreating. TU 4 1/2 hrs.

28<sup>th</sup> July Balcony - To Gösser Wlagger

Martin, Jacob and Elliott.

Having walked up to top camp late and therefore being ready <sup>in the afternoon</sup> to leave, we left for a shortish trip to look for bits in Balcony. We descended the entrance series pitches and then followed the main route, roughly in the direction of Icecack oven. Eventually we reached the gear dump to find the other two groups down Balcony hole having a natter. Michael bet Martin a Gösser that we couldn't find the rift they had just found. We continued down turtle head, up a short horizontal climb and down another pitch to the rift. The other group suggested we survey. We surveyed along it about 20m and then back to the pitch. At the bottom of the rift is a small but potentially descendable hole with a long rattle. Managed to Muddle our way out without any difficulties.

29<sup>th</sup> July Balcony - Hittapenty and Pubic S

Martin and Jacob

We returned to Balcony to drop a pitch that Martin had his eye on. After the entrance pitches, turn left at the scary hole. I demonstrated how slow I am at rigging and then Martin belted the pitch down whilst I sat in a billy bag to keep warm at the top. Eventually Martin ran out of rope (66m) at a ledge and another short pitch. I followed with the other rope and kit and we surveyed the messy crawl which extended from the ledge. Once we had finished this, Martin started to re-rig the pitch down ready for next time. Once he descended it I took the remaining gear back up the Hittapenty pitch and attempted to head out. I unfortunately missed the turn off to the scary hole the first time and ended up getting muddled in a spiky crawl. Once I realised my mistake I returned to the actual route, which was irritatingly obvious second time round. By the time I was half way up the big pitch on the way out, Martin caught up with me. The weather turned nasty for the return walk ~~to~~ to top camp.

29/7/15 107 - near coldest

Wookey, Matt + Jerry

Decided to go back to Doublekeep and look at the drafting side passage and the pitch 13-CO-1A which seemed likely to be the same pitch that Doublekeep has a window out on. Matt appeared and we set off, again designed the coldest rope to use on the way into Doublekeep (really another rope would be less tedious!). Matt + I headed in to survey while Wookey looked at 13-CO-1A. I was very disappointed to discover that I had failed to bring my balacava, instead bringing a pair of pants that I was going to take down the hill to wash - idiot! Matt + I went to the junction, and followed the very drafting passage north. Small at first (phreatic with a small flow-trench with water which we used to flow up hill). It got bigger and we clambered over some flaty boulders into an oven-chamber with water coming in from the roof. Beyond this were some pretty

mad/gravel formations that we managed to carefully step over. Beyond this, the way on appeared to be to drop down in the rift, but you'd need a rope. Scrugged out getting very cold and generating some rather muddy notes. The dripping noise meant that I couldn't hear the beeping disto, so the is called Beepless. Got back to hear Waskey rigging into our passage to guide us on easier way out. Unfortunately, ~~he~~ although he was in a window into our passage, he was about 3m too high. So he gave up on that and continued down the path. The real window was too hard to get to to be worthwhile. Waskey ran out of rope, so we attempted a disto leg down, after some 3m and 138m answers, the disto settled on 30m, which sounded plausible. Matt and Leach put in a bolt on the Seaplass traverse, so there was a X-hang on each side.

Got out to find it dry, but only for 15 minutes. We sat at the entrance for a while in the rain, then walked down in the rain, through to the canyon in the rain. Were very happy to find Anthony's men there to shelter in for the 3 hrs we needed to wait for our lift down the hill.

T/A: 5 1/2 hrs

27/7/15 Tunnels - pushing Kraken Andy, Ben Whetton, Anthony

Despite heavy overnight rain, we decided to press on with our planned trip on the basis that if Perseus was possible on the way in ~~we were~~ it would most likely be possible on the way out as well since the overcast conditions meant afternoon thunderstorms were unlikely. I thought the rain had eased off, but as soon as we left the bur it ~~was~~ became clear that ~~was~~ it was raining quite heavily and we got thoroughly drenched on the walk to the entrance.

Underground, water could be heard in lots of places where it normally isn't. However, usual suspects didn't sound too bad, so on arrival ~~at~~ at Perseus I was despatched to assess the water levels. The deal was that if the pitch was possible but we would get a soaking we would abort - I think we were all half hoping for this outcome. The water in the bottom was higher than usual but mostly ok. Just as I was starting to think that if it got much wetter we would have to leave, the bottom of the pitch appeared - so we were committed.

Carried on down to the pushing front, pausing briefly to measure a leg with a tape measure where the previous survey had encountered a disto refusal. Andy started rigging the way on from the top of the mud ridge in Kraken chamber. This proved to be quite tricky since everything was either covered in mud or falling apart or both. After much head scratching he elected to rig a short drop then a ~~traverse~~ bolt traverse along the wall where there was some good rock to try to get beyond the edge of the mud slope. I went down to have a look and thought there looked like some reasonable rock that I could just about reach at full stretch from the end of the mud slope that would make a reasonable rig if we could find a way to get there. Ben went down on survey around with a sky hook for a while, eventually finding a placement for an intermediate rebelay. Then I went down and doubled it up, but by now it was getting late so we headed out



Overall a frustrating trip with little actual progress and a lot of time spent covering in the hot dry sun. However, ~~some~~ at least water levels were back to normal so we had a relatively dry exit.

T/u 15 1/2 hrs.

29/7/15 Tunnels - Pushing Kraken (again) Andy & Anthony

Zippered back down to Kraken to the point where we had left off two days previously. I wretched the drill to try to execute the rigging plan from the previous trip. I put in another intermediate rebar that got me down to the edge of the mud slope. ~~Here~~ Here I placed a truly awful rebar bolt - cranked and overdrilled such that the anchor went right to the back of the hole when setting it. Fortunately I had a bollard with me to hook the cordless.

Heading into new territory I get lucky when I found a nice overhang with some beautiful clean rock - presumably because part of the ceiling has become the floor in the out ~~two~~ distant part. From here I got a beautiful 40+ m hang to the floor, so called Andy to join me.

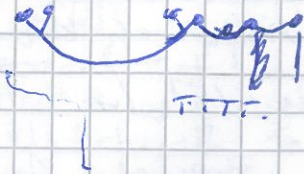
The pitch lands on a large boulder slope - pretty much the same as the upper level of Kraken chamber bleeding downwards chases off but there is a rift on the north wall that leads to a mud slope where I couldn't see Andy's light - so presumably going somewhere different (Qm-A). There may be a passage high up at the western end that would need a bolt climb to gain access - a better light is needed to assess this (Qm-B). There is a nice cranked mud floor in one corner. Going east from the bottom of the rope leads to a further short high working pitch (~10m) - Qm-A. This may simply go to the bottom of the boulder pile - hard to see if there is a way on. So there are a few leads, but nothing that screams "Push here for more cave." This is a very big space so it is hard to tell if there is a draught - especially since the draught <sup>was</sup> weaker than when the weather was baking hot the previous week.

We surveyed this lot using a Pony and Worky's De Chives Disto knot-off. The cutter proved very tedious when the leg length exceeded about 10m. "Error 160" was seen quite a lot, with "Error 155" in several places and the occasional "Error 154". Eventually got everything in the book and headed out to complete a fire trip. The survey data puts us 626m below the entrance and ~25m above the level of the Parosoluce sump, which helps to explain why I was quite tired!

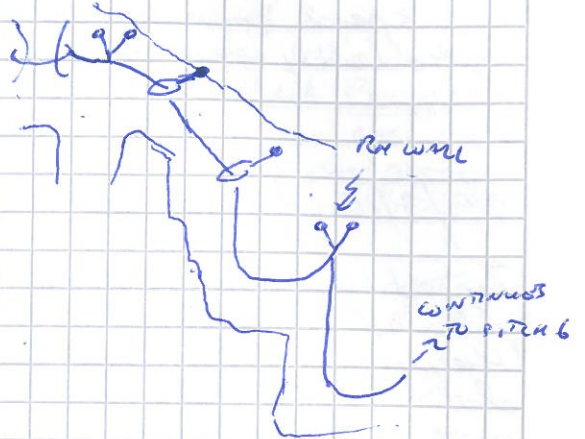
T/u 14 hrs.

# RIGGING BELOW PROCRUSTINATION, 2015.

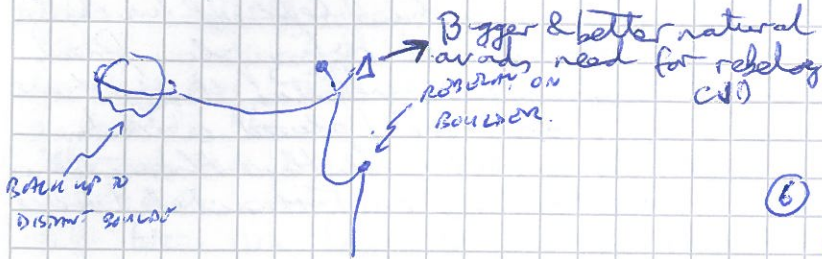
(1) TRANSVERSE AT FOOT OF PROCRUSTINATION



(5) WINDOW TWANKY'S KNICKER ELASTIC



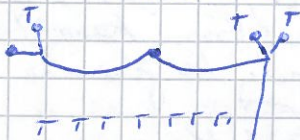
(2) POXY PITCH BELOW BANK ON THE CLIMBS



(6) TWO PITCHES BELOW WIKIE & MARIC CLUE.

(3) NUMBER OF THE BIKES

T = THUMBOLT



DEVIATION FROM OPPOSITE WALL

TENSIONED TRANVERSE RIG ON FACE WALL

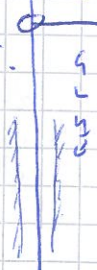
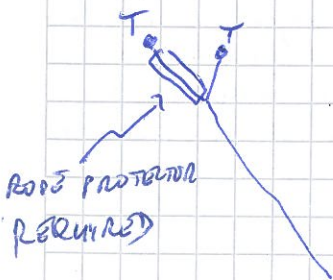


DANGY BOUNDER (PIANO)

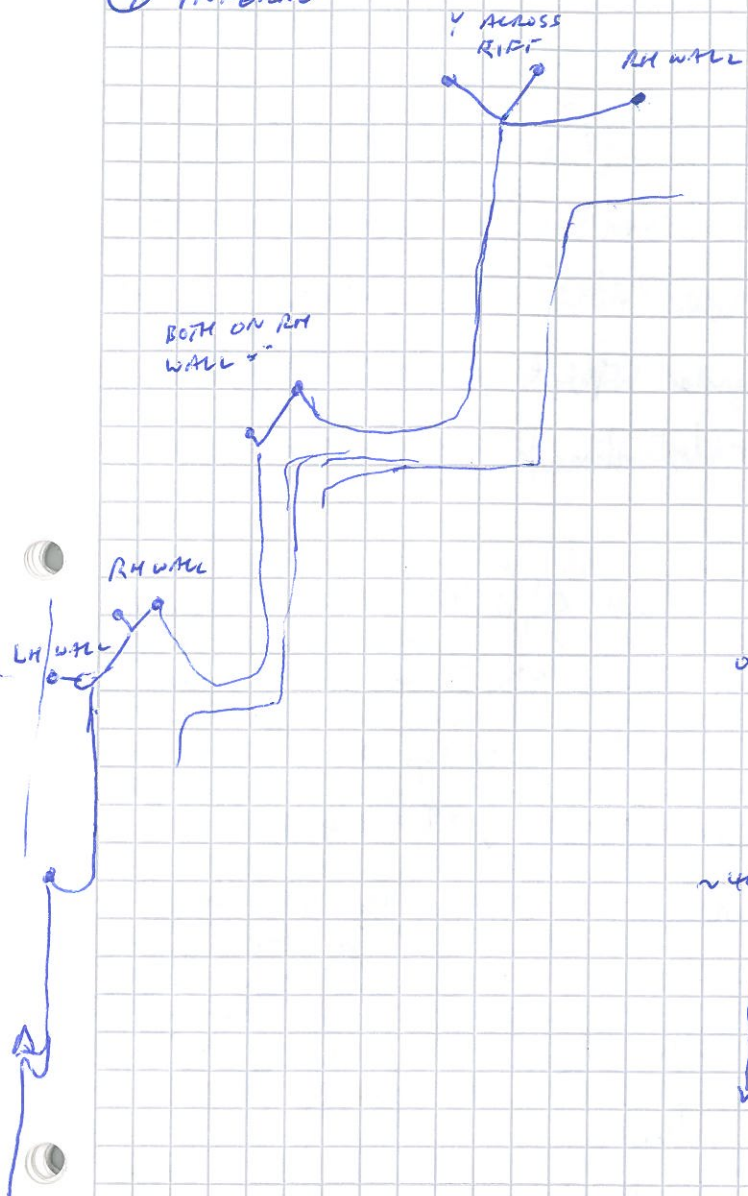
needs deviation

or rebelay ~10m above foot to take rope out of stream gully

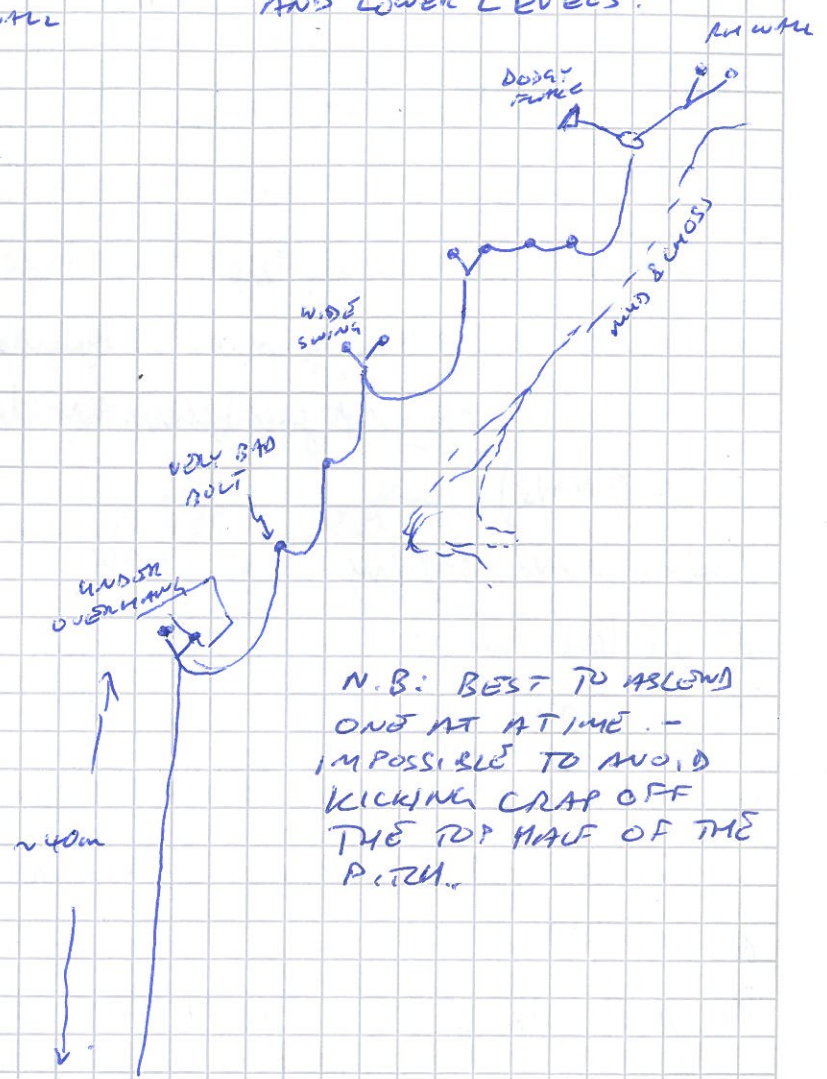
(4) POXY PITCH BELOW # OF BIKES



⑦ INFERNAL



⑧ PITCH BETWEEN KRACKEN UPPER AND LOWER LEVELS.



N.B: BEST TO ASCEND ONE AT A TIME. - IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID KICKING CRAP OFF THE TOP HALF OF THE PITCH.

26/07/15 Rob + George : Beyond Dig-Dug

After a helpful surveying lesson from the Futrells a day before I was ready to try bolting and rigging in a cave. After spending far too much time triple checking that we had all the necessary equipment we set off into balcony, aiming to continue where ~~the~~ Frank left off. (As a matter of pride, not just because our destination was so dramatically close to the entrance).

Heading through dig dug I was shocked to find ~~ge~~ George had ~~with~~ memory of the cave, and was forced to guide him through each section of the short passage. Arriving at the ledge we decided to traverse first up the bolting equipment and get to work. This left George sufficiently bored. I offered the drill to him and he declined, opting instead to explore the cave he had already visited.

He arrived back after the traverse was rigged, and proceeded to ~~spend his time~~ ~~critique~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~with~~ ~~critical~~ ~~criticism~~. Critique the traverse, calling it resource intensive and unnecessary. On the other side we found 2 holes, one ~~horizontal~~ bearing north to passage and one ~~vertical~~ more ~~eastwardly~~ ~~eastwardly~~ as an entrance to a meter by meter tube.

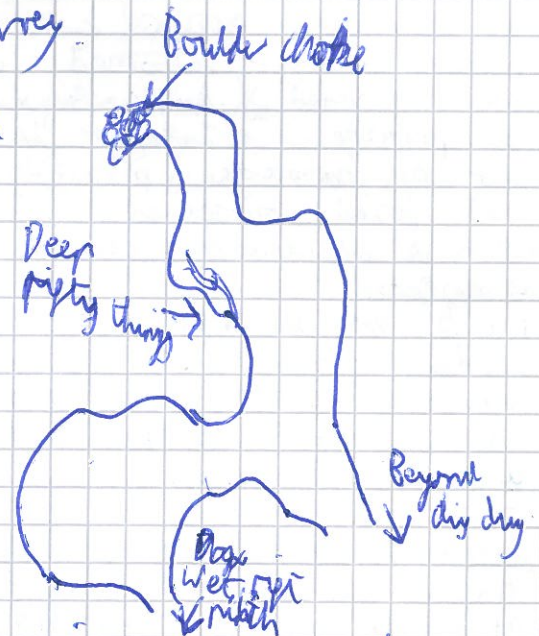
We moved the tube first, noting its remarkable length and draft, but alas, it eventually got too tight, so we decided to leave it to those with more available bone structures. In an lower passage we found it lead to ~~another chamber~~ a balcony overlooking the chamber we rigged, and further on it lead to another large chamber, complete with another large, ~~stunning~~ passage to survey, which we would proceed to do the next day.



27/07/19 Rob + George + Sarah: Beyond Thunderdome

George and I apprised Sarah, who was ~~had~~ been to see our  
Aby promising lead and my traverse. On location she took an immediate  
as for George, illustrating both the theory and application of the bolting  
and rigging. I would not let that ~~apprehension~~ phase me, due to the large,  
obviously going, passage that we had yet to move.

This did not go to plan. First we had  
Sarah make a questionable descent into the pit  
so we could document the pitchhead it leads  
to. Then we ~~documented~~ did the existing  
business of the open passage. It quickly ended  
in a large boulder choke.



After some frustrated, emotional attempts at digging  
our way through we realized it was futile. We instead rounded through  
some holes to move the pit thing that was always underneath the  
passage. The bottom of the pit was accessible by a rather suspect free climb,  
so we sent Sarah down for a look. She found that the bottom was  
nowhere in both directions, so for safety reasons ~~was~~ George and I  
abandoned the climb, thus ending a rather disappointing day. We  
designed the traverse, hoping it would be used for more fruitful  
endeavour.

28<sup>th</sup> July Balcony Ice Crock Area Elaine, Michael, Matt

Previous trips to the Ice Crock area left two A leads, so two teams went down to push the two leads. The first team consisted of Pete, Ben Wright, Sarah & George, while Michael, Matt and Elaine followed a short period of time later. Upon reaching Ice Crock, however, the latter team found the former in their lead - it had connected.

We met the other team at the head of a small pitch. George was busying himself looking at small scrotty crawls and soon popped out half way up the over two others were trying to climb.

I and George's task was then to survey these scrotty crawls. We surveyed around 30-35m of tube of varying size - mostly sandy-bottomed, some w/ loose choss bottom. We discovered further survey stations at the end of our bit of passage - think it is Edmundzwangig. Followed another bit of passage parallel to what we'd just crawled through and found ourselves straddling the top of the passage where Ben & Michael were just coming down. Gave them a good surprise.

All 7 ~~our~~ underground reconvened at the Teeble Stone before heading out. We did an inventory of what was there and wondered when Jacob, Elliott and Martin (freshly arrived) would go caving. At that moment, Jacob, Elliott and Martin walked around the corner.

J, E & M went on to do a bit of surveying while the other 7 headed out, split into three teams to avoid traffic jams on the pitches - Michael & George ran out at great speed, followed by Matt and Sarah, then Elaine, Pete and Ben brought up the rear. Others on this trip will hopefully describe their bits of pushing/surveying elsewhere. T/u around 8 hours.

29 July - Prospecting East of Balcony - Elaine & Ben Wright

With beautiful (or at least decent) weather predicted, Elaine & Ben decided a surface trip was the way to go. Mike Furrell pointed out where he hadn't been/planned to go if he didn't have to leave, and off we set! Turned East off the Balcony path & soon came across a promising hole. Elaine applied helmet, kneepads & gloves & scrooped by past some gannet bones until things became too loose to continue. Came back to discover a shiny tag by the entrance - CUCC 2009 03. ☹️ Nonetheless took details & photos & have since updated website.

Next found a big arena enclosed by rock w/ impressive rock arch entrance - just a bit further E than '09/03. One promising-looking entrance goes about 3m.

Ben looked at two cross bowls east of this - one potential entrance at  $N47^{\circ}41.741'$   $E013^{\circ}49.594'$  → lots of recent frost shattering

~ 6m pit w/ 1/2 large boulder at the top. Potential lead SSW under overhang but couldn't really see from any angle & would want rope to check (we didn't have any). Nothing else in this area ~~was~~

continued on to a grassy (in places boggy) depression with a couple of interesting holes. Looked at most promising - had a tag. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ - tag tucked in a crevice, Hilti almost completely out. ~~XXXXXX~~ prob. frost shattering (but has someone been here since to ensure tag was safe?) → tag: CUCC 2002 AD 03 looked promising. ~ 20ft pitch, potentially went back underneath, also potential way on slightly to R as looking at pit from entrance.

GPS  $N47^{\circ}41.638'$   $E013^{\circ}49.511'$  (grassy hollow. Entrance is on W wall of this depression.)

It then proceeded to piss it down so we couldn't look at the other promising lead we had seen, preferring to slip 'n' slide our way back to top camp. T/U 1/2 hr (Elaine)

1 August - Dropping CUCC 2002 AD 03 - Elaine & Elliott

Having confirmed with Anthony that CUCC 2002 AD 03 had not been dropped, the first post-Expo Dinner task for Elaine & Elliott was to take a look at it.

~~It~~ It was Elliott's first-ever bolting trip. The first bolt went in like a dream. However, while setting the second ~~bolt~~ bolt (in the best rock we could find), a large crack appeared around the hilti, and then the whole bit of rock sheared off. We therefore decided to name the cave Bergkäsehöhle - Mountain Cheese cave.

Subsequent bolts were more successful and we dropped the small pitch to a boulder-floored chamber. The way on led over a suspended boulder floor, past a precarious boulder and on to more boulders.

The terminal chamber had a reasonably strong draught, some kind of lacewing-like insect, and a lot of suspended boulders, both above and below. Elliott insisted that it was merely eau de death, not the perfume. We went back and surveyed a small

↓, but no person-sized way on.

possibly held up by magne  
down climb around half-way along our survey. with a  
suspended boulder ceiling & floor, this was definitely more  
along the paragon line of rings. 2x G leads in this area  
but very decayed, and neither of us fancied pursuing them.  
we dug out and decided to do a spot more prospecting  
in to area.

One nice horizontal entrance proved just too short to carry  
as a cave (just S of cucc 2002 AD 03) (no tag)  
A very promising-looking entrance N of ~~the~~ cucc 2002 AD 03 (named  
"the Devil's Arse" by Elliott) (to be fair it did look like a giant  
arse crack) went nowhere (any way on is choked or plugged with  
snow).

we had a poke about up the hill ~~down~~ in which cucc 2002  
AD 03 is situated - yielded 3 tiny entrances that went nowhere.

T/U 4h

3rd August → Purple Lupin Shaft → Michael, Elaine & Elliott

After being pressured to start pulling gear out of  
various places, we decided to polish off the Potrell  
Shaft. Over a dozen loops and 200m+ of rope  
was left in here. With Michael bolting, and Elaine and  
I surveying, we were underground by 12:00. Mike's Shaft  
of Tremendous Girth really does live up to its nickname!  
After some 150m of rope work, I swapped positions with  
Michael on a ledge at the pushing point, some 30m  
from the base of the Shaft. Michael started drilling and Elaine and I  
started some cold & awkward SRT surveying. The new pitch  
was 80m of a 55m rope, from a good-size, 10m<sup>2</sup> shelf  
of solid boulders. A Y-hang from a small gully leads to  
a re-belay, ~10m below. Another ~15m to another re-belay,  
single bolt, before 10m to the floor of the Shaft.



\* Addendum from Elaine:

Around 1/3 of the way down the 34m pitch on the LHS it looked like there were 2 tubes leading off. However, getting to these would probably be fairly difficult as they were about 6 or 7m away from the rope.

No obvious leads, except one small  $\leftarrow$  human sized and would be <sup>could</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>reached</sup> <sup>out</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>feet</sup> with  
 , no more than a C-lead. <sup>Loose</sup> <sup>Boulders</sup> - <sup>Screen</sup> <sup>floor</sup>  
 clean walls got nothing else away. Re-rigging took ~ 2.30  
 hours, with the difficult narrow entrance making table Sech  
 leading very hard work. Martin & Sacha helped to get  
 gear back to Top Camp, after meeting them at Packer-  
 hinkle. \* T/U 9 hours

BIPEDAL TRAVERSE SERIES - BALCONY HATCHE - 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2 surveys less on Day!

1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST - Pete, Fleur - Drill Future Mt. 1. Bipedal Traverse Part I  
+ Rory

It was raining all morning, and much fostering activity in the burry. Eventually the rain eased and Pete and Fleur nipped off to balcony hinkle. We went to the big lead from last year - that runs left at the rope up into Leads Bypass.

We went to the end of the safely waiting passage - to the very large series of holes down, with draft.

Fleur started off with a natural and bolt followed by two more bolts round the right wall. Then Pete came across and put a couple more in before the drill gave out at 5 1/2 bolts (2 batteries)

The last bolt was a step up onto a nice ledge. Pete then crossed a narrow 3ft thick rock bridge above the abyss - belayed by Fleur. He got into a 20ft passage that ended in a nice clean washed then that drained through a trench into the abyss. A tight tube off right might go for a thin person - but v. poor lead.

2<sup>nd</sup> August Fleur, Ben, Pete, Rory. - Drill worked! Bipedal Passage Mt. 2

Pete continued the traverse - with a very nice foot ledge - very nice. Eventually after 13 bolts + 2 naturals the traverse was finished. For a worrying moment there looked like no way on. But a 3m climb down a tube, round the corner, and a 3m climb up reached a big (5m x 3m) tube above. To the left is a muddy descending tube (being pitch). To the right we did a short climb down into a chamber. Rory then spotted a 6" diameter sized plastic tube heading down to south. Very pretty & good day. After 100m it opened up, but unfortunately ended in a very drafty choke. SPACE MADE'S Back at first chamber, Pete climbed up into two more great leads. Good day.

This was 29 July  
- see Forum until

3<sup>rd</sup> August - Pete, Roy, Ben, Matt. Bipedal Series / Arctic Padelite Sponges  
Inaugural Lecture.

The team went back to the muddy pneumatic (Ben's) pitch - and Ben put in a bolt. Pete derigged & retrieved the 25m rope from the traverse he rigged in 2016, just before Holly's pitch to North.

Matt and Roy pushed the pneumatic tube lead, after bolting a Peter shot climb up - from day before. This went for ~100m in an interesting direction and looked good. At one level Matt bolted a 3 bolt traverse. However it ended at a very drafty cross rift - that would need a very thin person. There is also a digable tube.

Then they went back to the other A lead from day before. After fiddling to get a bolt in narrow window down, Pete pushed through window and found nice 10m pitch down into a B lead series.

Ben & Roy had turned to human icicles (sorry) and headed out with bags. Pete put in 2.5 more bolts in a 2.5/20m pitch down before going up with drill festro.

(Mike et al. found this rift ended in catchy narrow rifts - B lead).

5<sup>th</sup> August - Batteries ! & ! & ! Ben, Pete.

Ben started the large pneumatic tube pitch - at top of tubes from Bipedal passage. Pete meanwhile detached the Inaugural Lecture series (through window to Mike et al. pitch down) and retrieved the ropes for Ben.

After a natural and two nice y-hangs in the 160/70° cork screw pneumatic tube - Ben arrived at bottom. It is VERY MUDDY PATCH! lots of slippy gummess on way back up.

There he climbed up 2m from small chamber, to start a 10-15m pitch into wide open passage. The drill was given a nice heavy battery. Hurray! It did 1.5 bolts ~~& ! & !~~ crap.

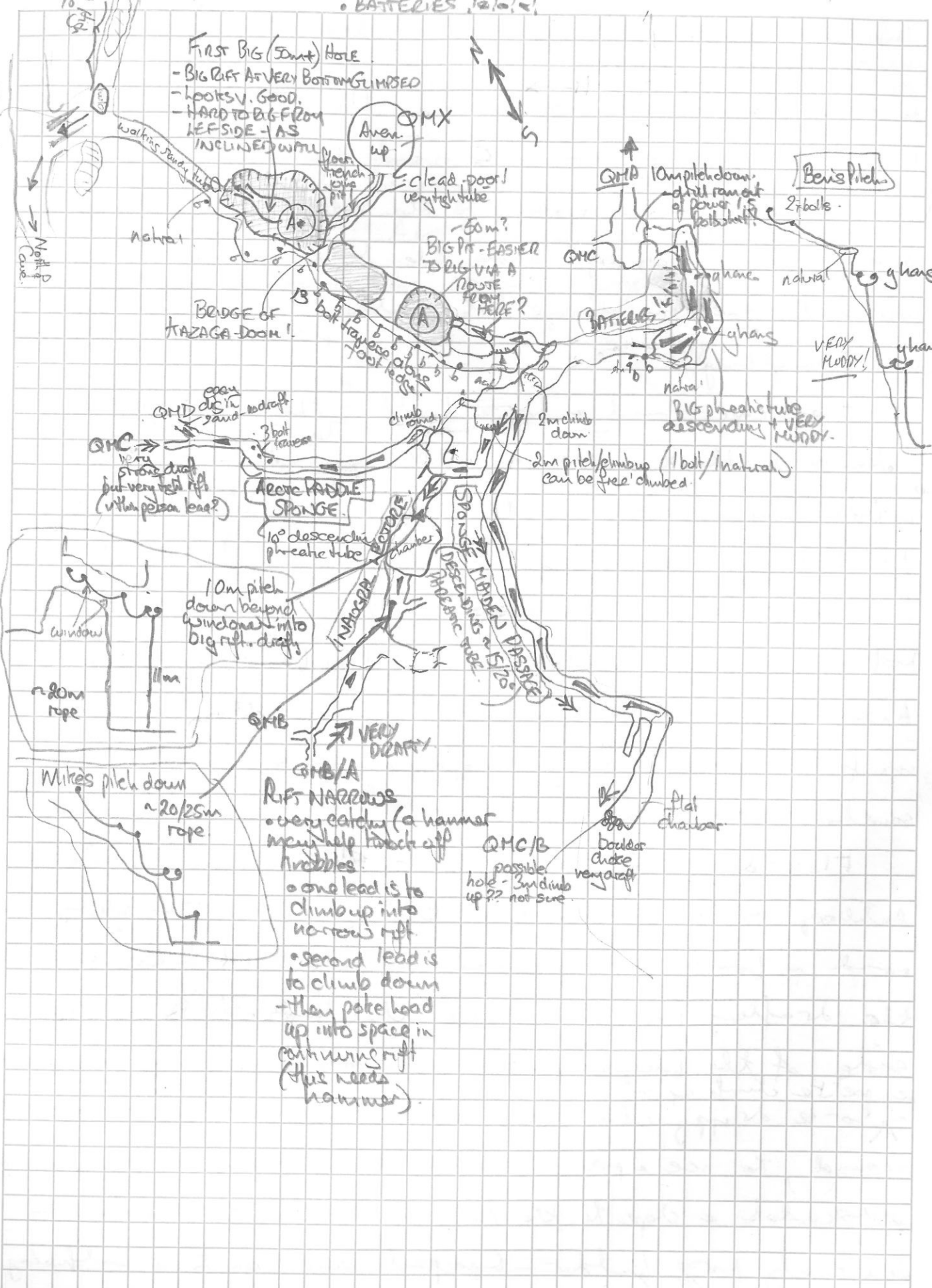
So there is a nice undescended pitch into A lead - needing another 1.5 bolts! Arg! Pitch up very muddy.

Note - Pete - Ben definitely did not get lost waiting to Balcony table for 6<sup>th</sup> time in 8/9 days. (Oh No!)

# BIPEDAL TRAVERSE SERIES

INCLUDES • SPONGE MAIDEN  
• ARCTIC PADDLE SPONGE  
• INAUGURAL LECTURE  
• BATTERIES 12/10/1!

Chin up to leads bypass



3<sup>rd</sup> Aug / Tunnocks - Kraken H/L  $\Rightarrow$  Anthemuse  
Anthony, Flew, Chris Denham

Impressed by the progress made at the bottom since last year. Kraken is enormous! Our objective was to shine Andy Waddington's bike light around the high levels of Kraken to look for any leads. Crossed the lip of the pitch (down to the low level Kraken) to the ICS of the chamber opposite the pitch rig. Shone the light to the far side, couldn't see any passage but couldn't confirm there wasn't anything.

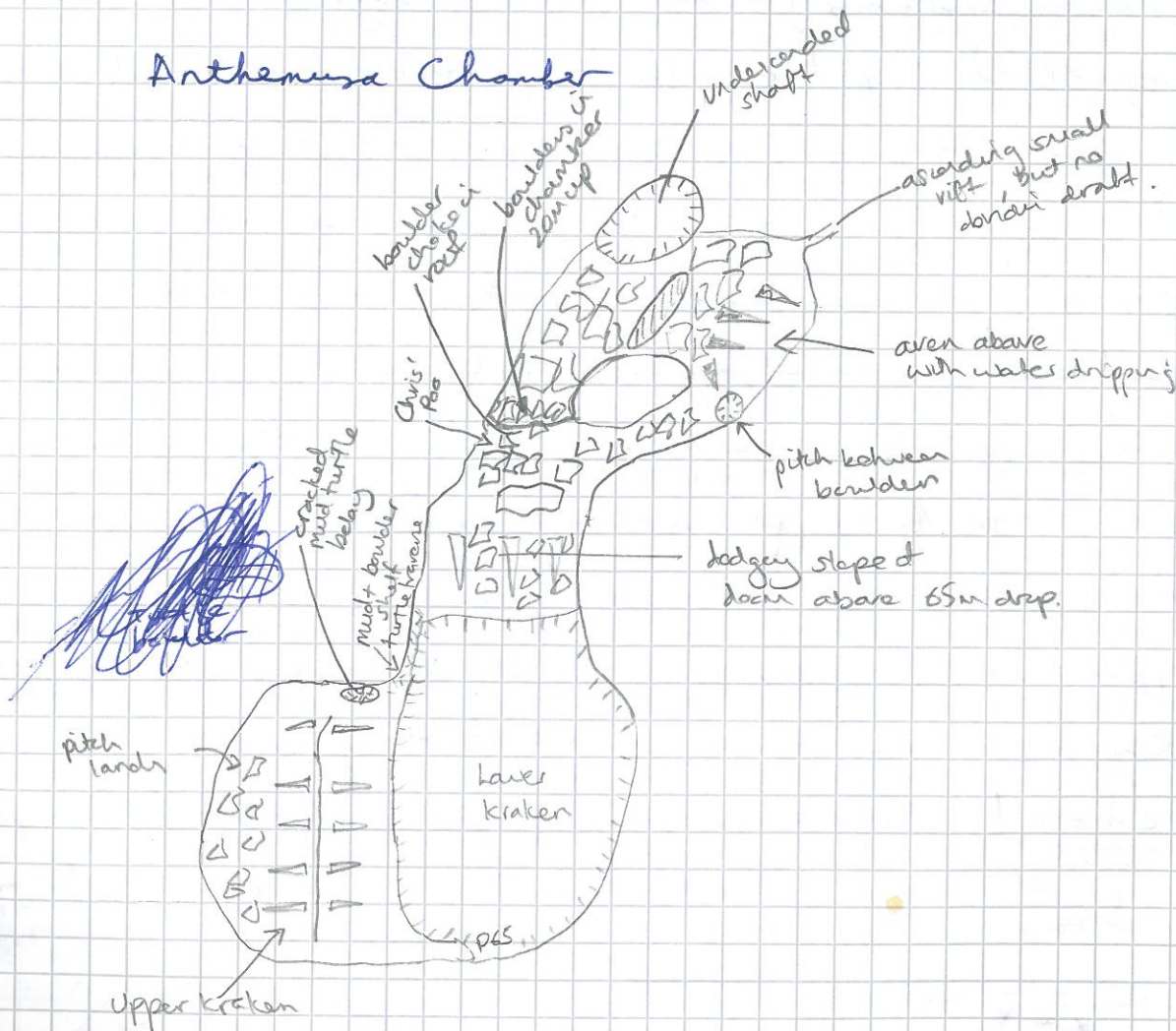
Tied rope round a large boulder that looked like a large turtle & reached a walkway around to a steep boulder slope leading up. I climbed up the slope (trying not to think about the 65 m drop at the bottom) to reach a drafty boulder pile. ~~Through~~ Through gaps in the boulders looked promising. Reaching the top of the boulders I dispatched Anthony to collect the drill from the bottom, which was in fact a pretext for me to open my bavers, which had somehow loosened.

Flew & Anthony came over - Flew took a photo of Anthony as he prussicked up the big pitch. The string wrapped round a boulder was upgraded by the drill & we entered the drafting horizontal passage that led off ~~to~~ on the far side of the boulder pile. After only a few steps we could see a large drippy chamber. We shone our aven spotter around, to see a possible H/L up to the left. I optimistically ascended a slope to the left & squeezed under an extremely large boulder - & popped out on to a walkway

into the high level. Fleur & Anthony surveyed up & then we crossed into a large dry chamber with black cracked mud floor.

There was another drippy pitch down, which we left unexplored. Apart from this there was no way on. We rigged the return properly just in time to descend it again.

T/U 1.5 HRS

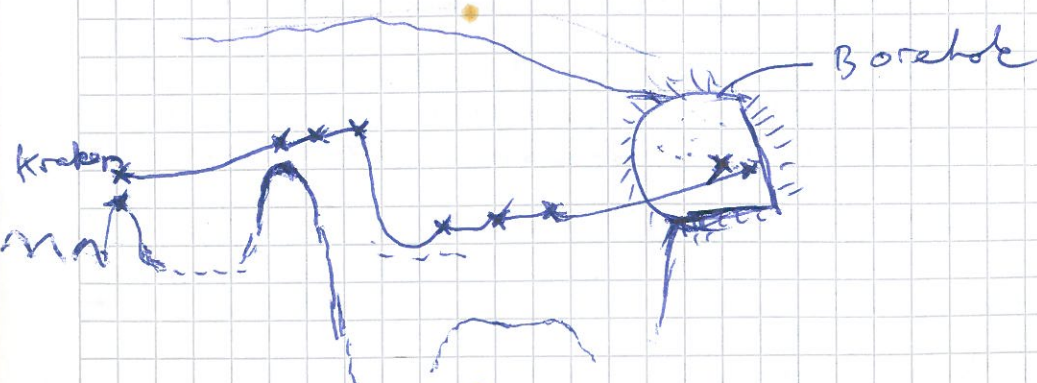


5<sup>th</sup> Aug / Runrocks → Kraken Lower

Anthony, Chris

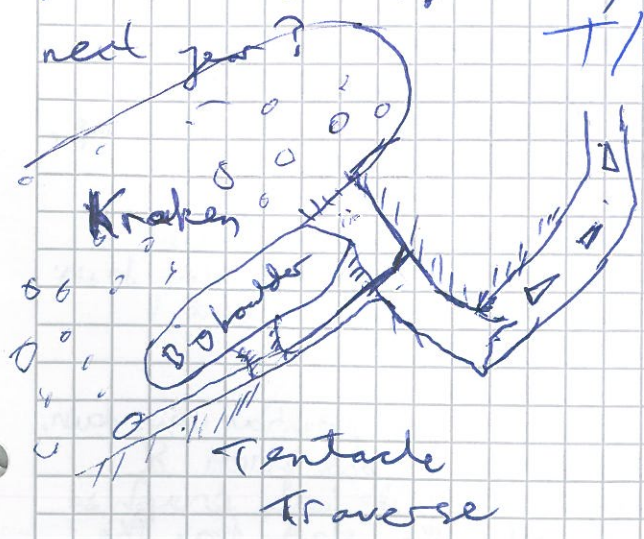
Descended to the bottom of Kraken to conclude on the final leads and begin derigging if nothing went. At the bottom of the pitch was lead #1, which considering the amount of masonry which must have fallen in, looked very uninspiring indeed. So, Anthony took me to the final lead at the bottom. He pointed out (using Wadders' own spatter again) the final lead, which looked like a gap behind an enormous boulder leaning against the wall.

I scrambled up the rift / gap where Andy had reached and shove the photos, camera ahead. Anthony confirmed he could see the light on the far side - so it probably was a gap behind a big boulder. Yet there was a distinct draft I couldn't see any passage, but surely this inward draft couldn't just be a circulation? So Anthony fetched the drill & rope. He put in a bolt to start the traverse & passed up the gear for me to continue. After 7 bolts I stepped across to a ledge, turned to look into the above on the right and found myself looking into a 5m diameter borehole! The drill battery just managed to complete the traverse.



Anthony brought all the gear across & we descended the phreatic ramp to where it turned left down-slip, one bolt and 3 lengths of our short ropes reached part way down the ramp. Reaching into the bog there was just a length of 6 mm cord (the same as that used as belays for Tuttle Traverse 2 days before). Abseiling down I stopped briefly to check I could get my jammers to grip. Phew. At the end of the string the ramp curved left & looked like it levelled out. I toyed with getting off the string & running down the ramp but we decided it was time to call it & survey out. Anthony tried taking a photo of the phreas en route.

As we returned past the flat mud floor side chamber to the rope with a splashy rill, we realised that Kraken would make a cracking camping site. With a 5 m diameter drifting borchde as temptation, who wouldn't be up for that next year?



T/V 15 HRS  
Octopus

- Gear at end:
- 6 ~~hangers~~ hangers
  - 6 slings
  - 6 mm cord
  - hiltis - c 20
  - 1 hammer
  - 1 setting tool
  - 1 big tackle sack

# PUSHING CLAYTON'S COCK UP TO FLASH HARD (P70) / /

Part 1: 1st August 2015

Team: Fleur & Sarah

The day after The day after The dinner, Sarah & I had an early-ish start to make a proper start on the big shaft that I had been after for two years.

We had a relatively smooth journey in, with only a slight delay at the 'aid' deviation in the entrance section. From Clayton's Cock Up we descended the first Boom Boom pitch and picked up the rope left last time. The down the second pitch to the ledge where I started by bolting a traverse passed the drips, further out into the lozenge shaped shaft.

Next I made a y-hang and descended via 2 bolt rebelay to a nice nose on the other wall where I hoped to make a nice y-hang. However after only 7 1/2 holes both drill batteries had expired and I had only 75% of a y-hang. I went down for a bit anyway, but could not see the bottom.

Sarah & I surveyed what was done + headed out.

TU 12hrs

Part 2: 5th August

Team: Fleur & Matt

This time it was Matt's turn to shiver while I bolted.

Again the first drill battery gave frustration and only 3 1/2 holes! However the second performed well and the shaft was finally bottomed at around P70.

I had a bit of a bottle failure, what turned out to be 50m off the deck. So I returned to talk to Matt, collect the last rope and not feel so alone. Matt was all Thermalled up, so I resolved to "man up" and get the job done.

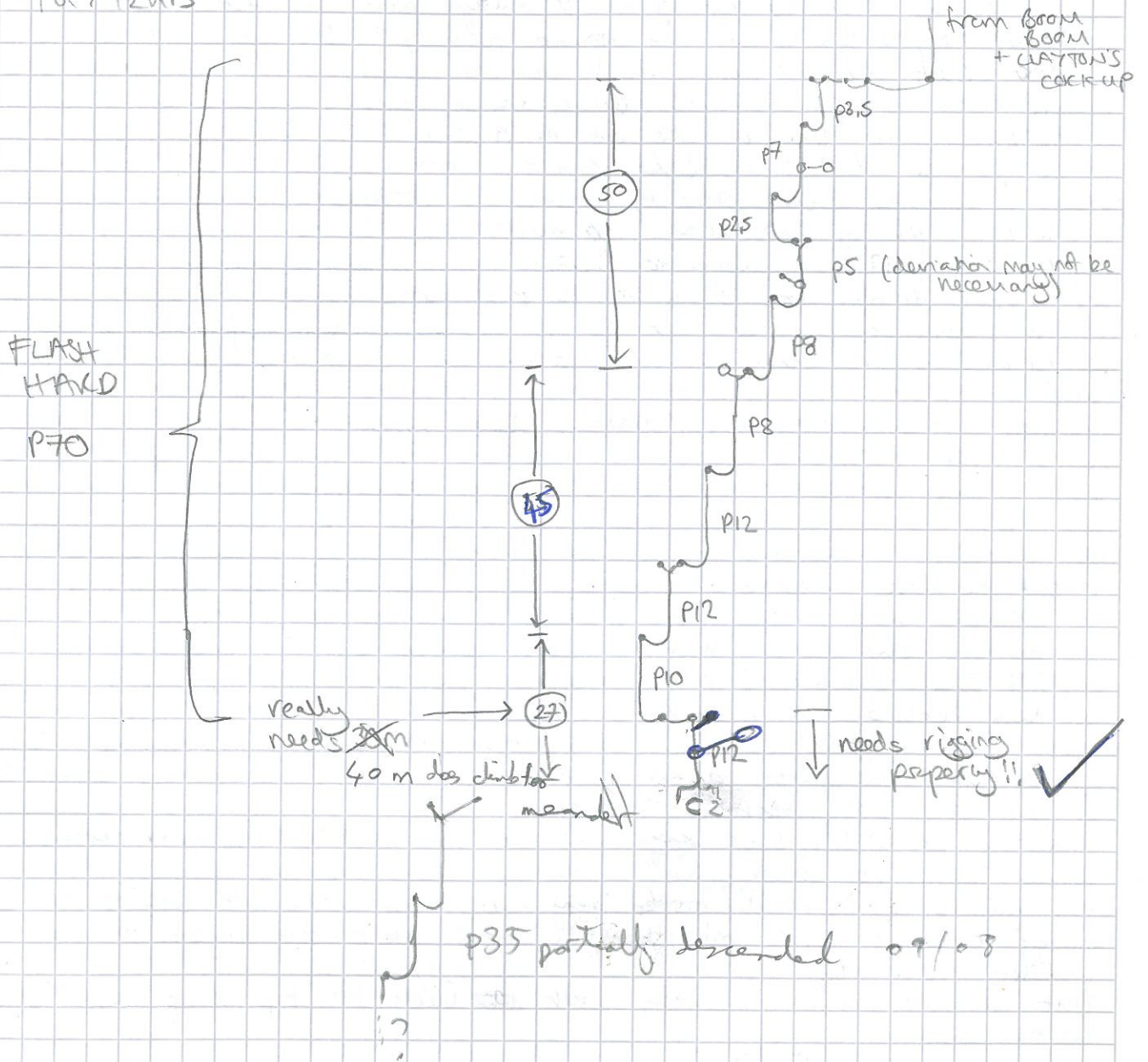
The lower 250m were very drippy and I got quite wet swinging around placing bolts. When the water ran down into my wellies it started to get a bit miserable but I persevered.

I touched down on a bouldery floor with two potential ways down. I took the driest, which also had the draught and placed a bolt to descend. The rope (27m) was not quite long enough so when Matt was down we fed through all the slack from the last pitch to get maximum rope.



Then we made an "expedition rigging" descent off one bolt and with two rub points. The p12 landed in a small chamber where the water re-entered. A meander led off, taking the tiny stream, and emitting a howling gale. A 2m climb down, possibly requiring a line we did not have, stopped us. That and approaching hypothermia on my part. We surveyed out and fucked off.

TU: 12hrs



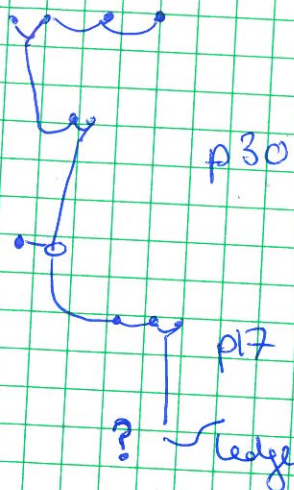
Then we made a  
and with the  
small chamber  
taking the air  
2m down I  
have stepped  
my part.

TU: 12hrs

FLASH  
HAXD  
P70

- initially searched  
above the ducts up  
from the balcony,  
but eventually I  
realised we  
needed to go back  
down

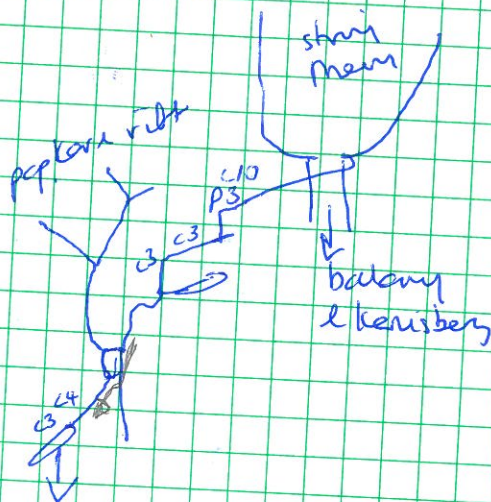
- correct hole  
- some sparting climbs  
& Thimbleing



a bolt  
ed in a  
under led off,  
gate. A  
did not  
thru man

from boom  
boom  
+ CLAYTON'S  
COCK-UP

How TO GET TO  
CLAYTON'S COCK-UP!

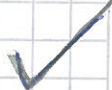


denotation may not be  
necessary

Beam Beam

Station 8 - RH bolt of last Yhang  
Station 9 - Rib on floor just  
before next drop

do rigging  
properly!!



p35 partially descended 09/08

6<sup>th</sup> August Batteries !\*!\*!\*! Elaine & Elliott

Having made it up the hill in 1hr 20min the night before, Elaine and Elliott were keen for some caving. Sadly, everybody else wanted to head down the hill, so we decided to have our own caving trip, with blackjacks and hookers.

Ben's half-botted pitch was in need of being finished, so we decided upon that as our destination. After an accidental diversion to Sponge Maiden Passage, we found the right spot. Ben and Pete were not joking about ~~the~~ it being muddy. We had better luck with batteries, though, and Elliott didn't take long in putting it in the rest of the Y-hang and a deviation. We descended the 10-15m pitch and found two possible ways on.

~~With~~ Elliott had a quick look at the C lead and decided on probably crapped out. We decided to leave most of our things at the foot of the pitch and take a look at the A lead. Some sandy-floored vadose passage led to a slight squeeze into an aven with a boulder floor. Upwards looked potentially climbable (probably wants ropes really) with a couple of good leads ~~off~~ going off. Downwards led to an awkward wriggle to a short but awkward climb. There was another aven with significant drips, and pools on the bottom (following several dry days). To the right, a passage led off to another aven with a splendid acoustics, so we had a sing-song. The floor of that passage had a small slit running along it, which in places was wide enough to see down to another level around 15-20m below with more pools and running water. At the end of the passage was a climb down into a rift - a potential way on, but we didn't look at it.

We decided to survey back from here to the pitch. Elliott went to get the instruments. Coming back he fell off the climb into the drippy aven. He was fine, although a little shaken. We marked our first station and prepared the notebook.

~~The~~ The instruments then proceeded ~~not~~ to work. <sup>JOY</sup> We thus decided to name the third <sup>(good-acoustics)</sup> aven "Freude" (as we had also done a good rendition of ~~the~~ "An die Freude" in it earlier. The first aven was named Blackjack, and the drippy one was named Hookers. <sup>"ode to Joy"</sup>

Knowing we didn't have ~~any~~ working ~~instruments~~, we decided not to push any further and headed out. The muddy pitch/climb proved very adept at using up lots of our excess energy and we gave our thumbs a good work-out trying to make the jammers not slip.

Out in time for a leisurely walk ~~back~~ back to top camp with dinner in the sun.

T/u 5 1/2 hours

2015-08-04 101 KH/KH connection - Woods + gear

Typed in computer.

2015-08-05 - Nodrinbor - Heat Recovery Ventilation work-been

Typed in computer.

7/8/15

A Song, to the Tune of Wagon Wheel, by Old Crow Medicine Show  
by Elaine

Headed down South to the old Dachstein  
I'm climbing my way through the Bunde pine  
Staring up the hill and I pray to God I see torchlight  
well I made it 'cross the plateau in less than two hours  
It's a National park so I didn't pick no flowers  
And I'm hoping there's a space in the lavvy for me tonight

CHORUS:

Oh rock me Expo like a rope on steel  
Rock me Expo any way you feel  
Hey Expo rock me  
Rock me Expo in the wind and the rain  
Rock me Expo like I'm not insane  
Hey Expo rock me

Running from the cold up in North Yorkshire  
I was born to be a caver somewhere warm  
But I guess that didn't work out - I'm in Austria now  
Oh these crapped out leads keep on getting me down  
I lost my spanner down a pitch so I had to turn round  
But I ain't giving up, I know there's new cave around the corner!

CHORUS

Surveyed to the North down in Balkonhöhle  
I found a passage out of Ice Cuck to a boulder choke  
But it's a-heading west through a narrow crack  
To thirty-nine steps, Fünrocksschacht  
Well I gotta make it down before the storm  
I hear the gösser calling my name and I know that it's the only one  
And if I die at Hilde's, at least I will die free

CHORUS

2015-08-06 - 107 Dev by - Terry, Woker, G. and

Typed in to computer

2015-08-01 - 107 - Susan & Sandy Bottom  
w. w. & Matt.

Typed in to computer

1/8/2015 107 - Old Route

Ollie + Jenny

I headed to Collett to grab the drill then down the Old Route to join Ollie who was re-rigging down to. Got to where we ran out of rope last time. Decided to stay low this time (bottom of the rift), which wasn't as high as it looked. Ollie put in a few bolts to get to what we think is the head of the pit. By this point Ollie was very cold + wet, so we decided to surkey the extra bit and then dig out + warmed up, big carry + dehydrating. Ollie managed to slip in the rift and bash his knee just before we got to the base of the p67. Fortunately it wasn't too awful, so we had a look at the upstream bit. It was possible to climb up further, bridging to avoid the chassy roots. Round the corner was more chassy climbing, so we called it a day and dehydrated to the top of the p67 and carried lots of gear out.

T/U: Jenny 10hrs  
Ollie 9 1/2 hrs

2/8/2015 107 - 161 Runnelstone, Quality Belays Woskey + Jenny

It had rained all night and was still raining, but not too heavy, so we were optimistic that it might be dry enough to get to 161. Due to a lack of gear, we designed some non-essential hangers on the way in and made quicker time to the Runnelstone (Zhrs to) despite spending a while in China looking for the smooth Sindy Bottom rope.

This time didn't go far down the pitch from station 56, but Woskey rigged across the welly paper. Lots of possibilities for going up (where Woskey thought the best way). Noticed that the easiest way was to drag up the welly paper climb then traverse back across towards the Runnelstone. Woskey worked his way across this quickly using a mixture of bolts + quality natural belays while trying to avoid the worst of the loose class. This is called Quality Belays. Happily all the belays survived, despite me crossing several times to get gear and to check that we weren't just going to re-appear in the Runnel stone. At the top of the traverse was a short bit of passage the same big space. Woskey started to bolt down this while I went to doing the rope from Fast Bolt on the west. I left a hanger and a short bit of thick blue dynamic rope ~~to make a route easier~~ to make a route easier. Got back up to discover my handgum was no longer attached to my softy cord, fortunately I didn't drop. Went back to the top of the rope and designed back to leave on by the little traverse rope to welly paper. Caught up Woskey who had belled down one pitch to get to a rock ledge looking back over a big rift that was deeper than we had rope for so he traversed across the ledge to drop down ~~with~~ a couple of belays, including another quality natural.

Guessed that we were near to the bit of 161 we were aiming for, but it would be wet to go further down from here.

Surveyed part, left everything rigged and headed out. It was much nicer (and faster) not carrying the drill out, though Woskey still caught us up by the entrance pitch. Was ~~so~~ thankfully much drier at Top Bold on Red way out.

T/U: 14hrs

3/8/2015 107 - Old Route

Ollie, George, Jenny

Decided on a short trip to the top of some loose ends in the old Route. Ollie started rigging along the rift between the p67 and 160 beyond where we got in 19th July. Meanwhile ~~George~~ showed George the scatty leads at the end of Tibber Bells. Sadly he deduced the drier way too high to even get into. We got a little further

down the 'main' passage before reaching an wider bit, then this got way too small. Surveilled out, and went round the old rift route to see if we could hear/see Oly. He had a few bolts still to get, so we took some photos while we waited. Swung round across to Oly - sadly the rift didn't continue over the path. Then George + I went round to Oly's side of the rift to connect the screw while Oly descended behind us. Oly went to look at going left from the window between ropelins + old rock. I realised this was a 2 person job, so I took a bag out and left then to it. Unfortunately they miscommunicated where to wait, so ended up following me out.

Jenny 4 3/4 hrs  
T/U Oly + George 5 1/4 hrs

4/8/15

2007-71

Oly + Jenny

Oly was keen to finish today at 2007-71, to see if it provided a useful bridge to 97. I could remember very little from 8 years ago, so we headed over for a recon with no rope, drill etc (though I did accidentally carry our SRT kits).

Cave was better than I had remembered. Low entrance led to walled passage, shortly on the right was a 1m drop down with a piffy pitch containing bed (currently undescended). Next to this was another way on, which also led to a pitch with a passage also continuing beyond (both unvisited). ~~On to a~~ Above here is a small skylight entrance, which I later climbed out of (2007-71b).

On leads to a small chamber. We'd looked right in 2007, and it chokes. This time I headed left, mostly crawling with some lighter bits. After a while I could see daylight, so carried on. Sadly it looked a bit tight and I was worried I'd pop out in the wall of a shale hole - so I reversed back, and walked round on the surface. Turns out that 2007-71c pops out on a ledge part way down the next shale hole SW of 97. In the S corner of the shale hole is a small rift with a rope connection with 97. Surveilled this passage, and I made the through trip.

Finally looked at the straight on passage. This is bigger and ~~at a bit~~ <sup>soon</sup> goes to a drop which can be traversed over and the first bit climbed down. Pitch continues (undescended) + passage continues (unvisited, crawling sized). Surveilled out.

T/U 3 hrs

5/8/15

107 - old rock window, Wonderland

→ Antiquity

→ Effective Team

Oly + Jenny

This was to be our final ~~to~~ trip before tomorrow's deig. we set off first to the 13-02 ropeless/old route window and turned right (like in 2013), but this time rather than dropping the pitch ~~to~~ we dropped down slightly then traversed along. I placed another bolt and dropped down into a rift. Following left led to the inlet above the way the 1978 route dropped the pitch. Turning right we followed up and along to eventually reach a loose 45° slope down to a pitch. Couldn't safely record the pitch head but rocks seemed to go the way. There are a lot of difficult rifts in this bit of the cave, turns out this pitch is above the bouldery climb we were below on the 3rd. Surveilled and descended this. called Antiquity.

Realised we didn't have all that long before our callout, so decided to head to Wonderland without the drill or rope.

Went up ~~with~~ ~~and~~ first down to the end first. Oly had noticed that if you poked your head to the rift of the roof tube, a small passage headed off. After an awkward corner it was bigger - a mixture of crawling, waltzing and sideways wiggling. After a bit the route split, both looked small but probably doable. I encouraged Oly to follow, and surveilled it. called this Effective Team. Headed out with lots of gear, meeting Wooley + George at the entrance.

T/U 9 1/2 hrs

06/08/15 Pass 'Ben's Pitch', beyond Bipedal Passage

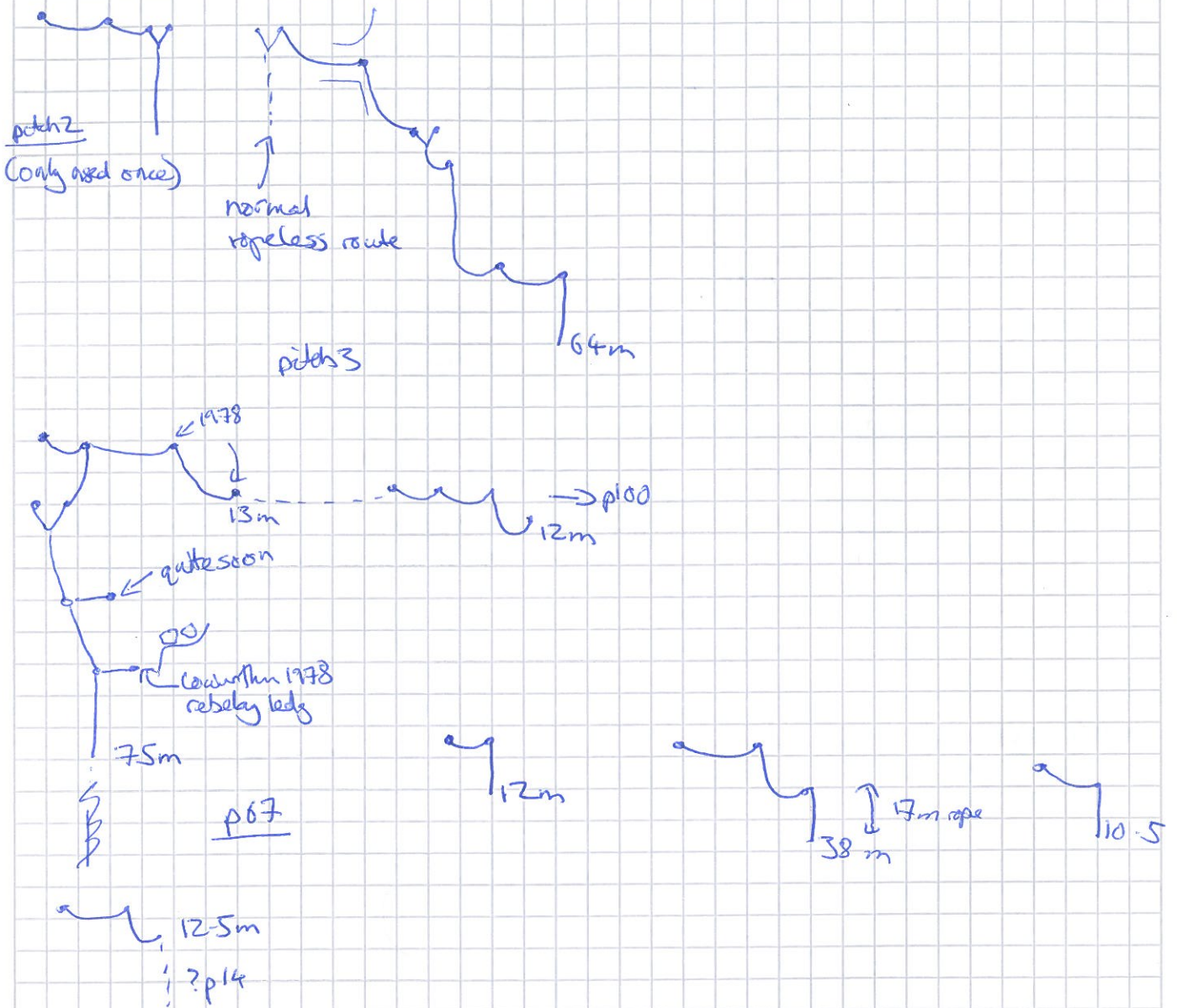
Elaine & Elaine

Elaine & I were the only people underground today. Ben Virage put us onto a pit with '1 1/2' bolts in, that needed fixing. Very muddy passage on the outside here. First bi-pedal, downwards 3m to the left, turn right, a wedged boulder provides a climb up, again 3m, on the left. In the chamber entered (15 x 4 x 4 m?), go ~~right~~ left to steep muddy slope. At the base, Ben's pitch needed another hole drilled on the 4m long, into a ~1.5m wide rift. Deviation ~4m down keeps rope off wall. Pitch is ~15m (?), to a sandy floor.

3 heads. One tube, about person size runs off to the left, looking down the pitch. Mark Thought a C-head, but appears drilled → D head. Lead to right appears to be solid wall @ dead end. One chamber, drying outwards (15:00) passage goes. Sand boards can be seen on walls, leading to unbroken, easily passed. Opens into chamber, with a rise (pre-climatic?) over to the left. Going right, passage continues down a rubbly free climb into very druggy chamber. Again, over to left, passage to right, with pools of flowing water up to 20m below passage. Mahud Station at X-1 at end of passage, several tubes descend here, to left of Station.

Instruments out of battery → nothing surveyed past head of Ben's Pitch

107 old Route Risting

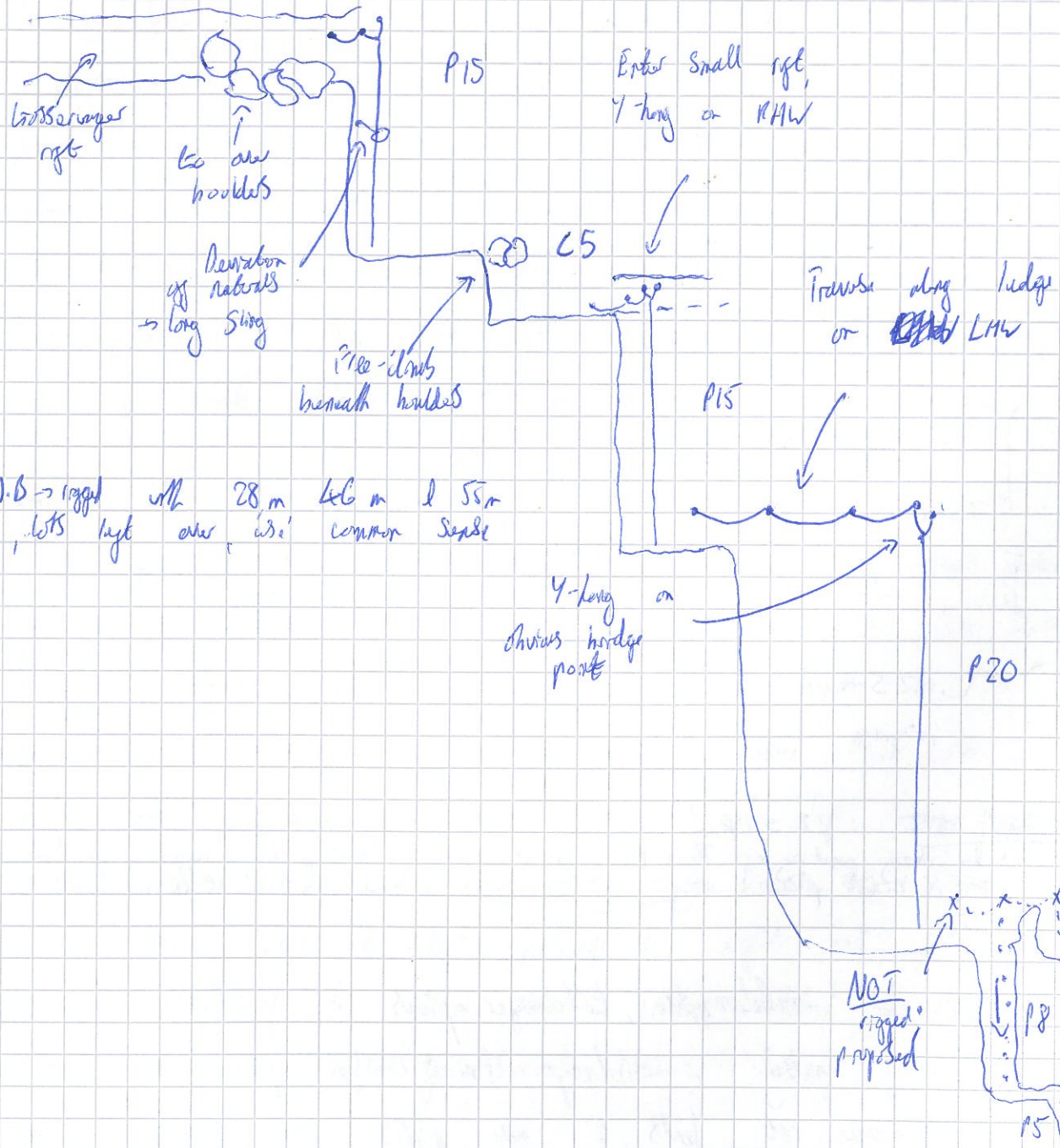


8 August 2015 <sup>2 surface</sup> Oily + Jenny  
 Spent the day pushing up the hill and carrying a <sup>slightly</sup> heavily pack down the hill. For a break placed tags on 2007-71 board (the entrance was tagged in 2007).

10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 → Buleon hills, Lösserwege pitches Bill, Nathan, George  
 Last day of 'pushing' in Buleon. Previous 15m pitch at South end of Lösserwege rft leads to more pitches. 5m downwards leads to small rft passage above another 15m pitch to a solid ledge. Rugged R/S, 4-hang is a bit small. Traverse along LHW to another pitch, 20m. Free hangway down to solid floor. Small tube leads in



Pm down vertically, before another 5m pitch - passage continues.  
 Len climbs over this 'tube', ~~by~~ to see main passage  
 , near horizontal, going SW (?). Both good leads. Needs  
 a traverse rigged @ end of 20m pitch to carry on.



Tunnocks, Flash Hard continued (Clayton's Cak-up) 09/08/2015

Chris, Brendan, Sarah

Found our way down to Fleur & Matty, dipping & Baltic limit. It took 3 1/2 hrs to add a partner bolt to Fleur's. We swapped ropes using the only rope available at Top Camp, a 40m releasing the 27m. Shinned down the windy meander, I helped later by the bottom end of the 40m. Traversed around a few leads to the top of a possible pitch. Sarah & Brendan at the survey front. climbed 10m down before ~~be~~ being deterred by the vertically vertical nature of the passage. Brendan was keen to do his first rigging and was persuaded that starting rigging at the top was more conventional than starting half-way down. As a result of this sage advice the 27m rope was ~~of~~ insufficient to reach the floor so we completed the survey and de-rigged out, ~~to top~~ leaving our bags at the top of String Theory, as the energetic through up the rift took all the margin we had before our call-out. Good hauling lead for next year.

T/U 13 hrs